

# **Special Feature: Review of the disaster management system based on the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake**

The earthquake that struck the Noto region of Ishikawa Prefecture on January 1, 2024, caused extensive damage to many lives, houses, and lifelines, mainly in the same region. The extent of the damage also spread far into Niigata and Toyama prefectures. Many of the affected people are still living in emergency temporary housing as of April 1, 2025, and the government continues to support them under the “Emergency Disaster Headquarters for the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake,” which was established on January 1, 2024. The government has been making concerted efforts for recovery and reconstruction of the affected areas under the “Noto Peninsula Earthquake Recovery/Reconstruction Support Headquarters” established on January 31, 2024. Recently, the “Working Group on Disaster Response Based on the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake” reviewed the disaster response to the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, identified issues and lessons and compiled a “Report on Disaster Response Based on the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake,” and is currently discussing countermeasures based on this report in preparation for a large-scale disaster that is feared to occur in the future.

In the 2024 edition of the White Paper on Disaster Reduction, Special Feature 2, “The 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake,” mainly summarized the situation and response during the first three months after the disaster. Chapter 1 describes changes in the situation since last year’s report and the damage caused by the heavy rain that hit the Noto region of Ishikawa Prefecture on September 20, 2024, while the region is still in the process of reconstruction, and Chapter 2 outlines the future direction of Japan’s disaster countermeasures in light of the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake.

## **Chapter 1 Overview of the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, etc.**

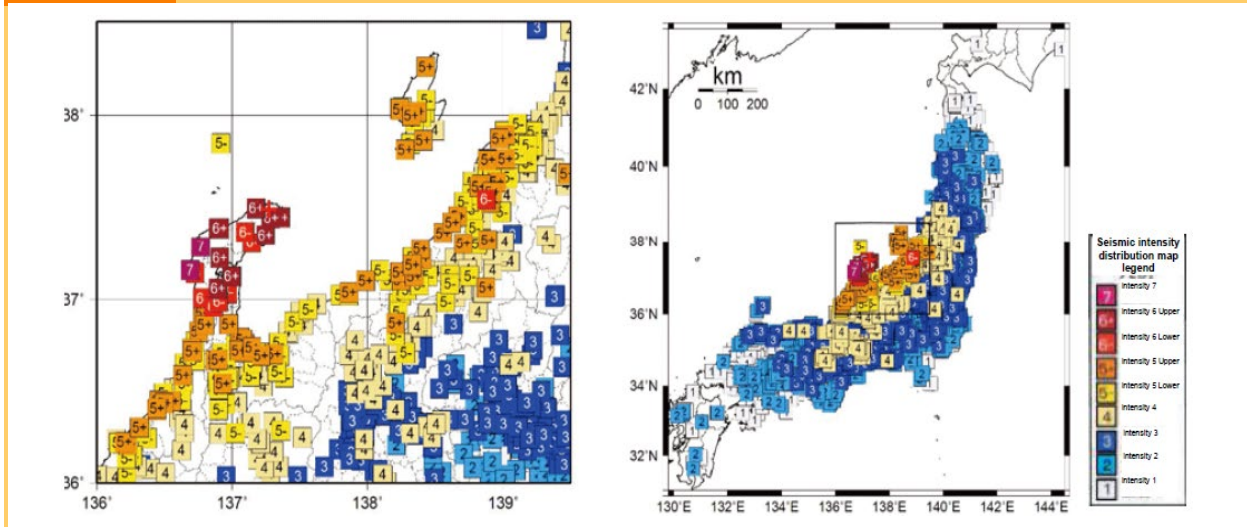
### **Section 1 Overview of the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake and Damage**

#### **(1) Overview of the earthquake**

At 4:10 p.m. on January 1, 2024, an earthquake of magnitude 7.6 (provisional value) on the Richter scale occurred, with its epicenter at a depth of 16 km (provisional value) in the Noto region of Ishikawa Prefecture (hereinafter referred to as “the earthquake” in this Special Feature) (Fig. 1-1). A seismic intensity of 7 was observed in Wajima City and Shiga Town in Ishikawa Prefecture. Seismic intensities ranging from 1 to 5 upper were also observed in areas from Hokkaido to Kyushu. On the same day, the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) named this earthquake and the series of seismic activities since December 2020 as “The 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake”.

**Fig. 1-1**

4:10 p.m., January 1, 2024, seismic intensity distribution map of the earthquake in Noto region, Ishikawa Prefecture

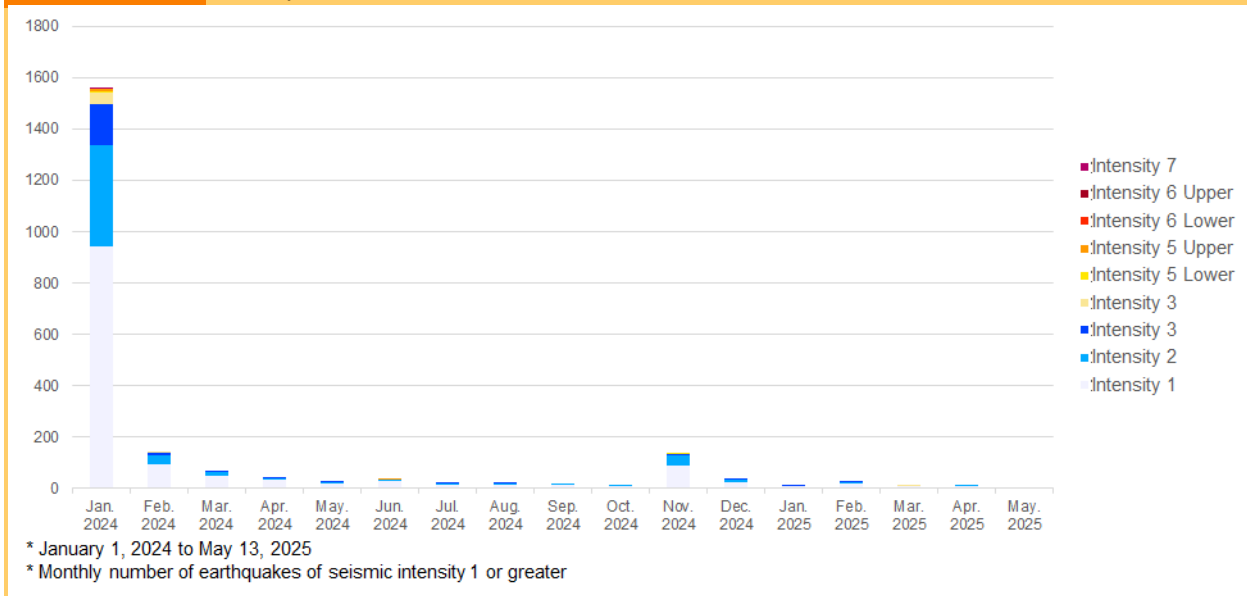


Source: Japan Meteorological Agency

Although seismic activity has decreased since the earthquake, it remains active, with 2,185 earthquakes measuring 1 or more on the maximum intensity scale occurring between 4:00 p.m. on January 1, 2024, and 12:00 a.m. on May 13, 2025 (Fig. 1-2).

**Fig. 1-2**

Number of earthquakes by maximum intensity by month for the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake



\* January 1, 2024 to May 13, 2025  
\* Monthly number of earthquakes of seismic intensity 1 or greater

Source: Japan Meteorological Agency document

## (2) Overview of the damage

Fig. 1-3 compares the damage caused by the “Noto Peninsula Earthquake” with the damage caused by the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, the Great East Japan Earthquake, and the Kumamoto Earthquake.

**Fig. 1-3**

Comparison of damage caused by the “Noto Peninsula Earthquake” with other earthquake disasters

	Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake	Great East Japan Earthquake	Kumamoto Earthquake	Noto Peninsula Earthquake <sup>Note 1</sup>
Date of occurrence	5:46 a.m. on January 17, 1995	2:46 p.m. on March 11, 2011	Foreshock: 9:26 p.m. on April 14, 2016 Main shock: 1:25 a.m. on April 16	4:10 p.m. on January 1, 2024
Seismic intensity	Magnitude 7.3	Moment Magnitude 9.0	Magnitude 6.5 Magnitude 7.3	Magnitude 7.6
No. of dead/missing (including disaster-related deaths)	6,437 persons (including around 900 persons)	22,332 persons (including around 3,800 persons)	276 persons (including around 220 persons)	594 persons (including around 364 persons) * As of May 13, 2025
No. of completely destroyed houses	Approx. 105,000 houses	Approx. 120,000 houses	Approx. 9,000 houses	Approx. 6,500 houses * As of May 13, 2025

Note 1) The “Noto Peninsula Earthquake” column contains information on the largest in the series of earthquakes (the earthquake that struck the Noto region of Ishikawa Prefecture at 4:10 p.m. on January 1, 2024).  
 Note 2) The “disaster-related deaths” of the Noto Peninsula Earthquake is a provisional value as of May 28, 2024, when deaths were recognized as caused by the disaster in accordance with the “Act in Provision of Disaster Condolence Grant” (Act No. 82 of 1973), due to worsening injuries from such disaster or illness caused by physical strain from evacuation life, etc.

Source: Prepared by the Cabinet Office based on documents from the Cabinet Office, National Police Agency, Reconstruction Agency, Fire and Disaster Management Agency, Japan Meteorological Agency, Headquarters for Emergency Disaster Control, Extraordinary Disaster Management Headquarters, Ishikawa Prefecture, Hyogo Prefecture, and Kumamoto Prefecture confirmed as of May 13, 2025

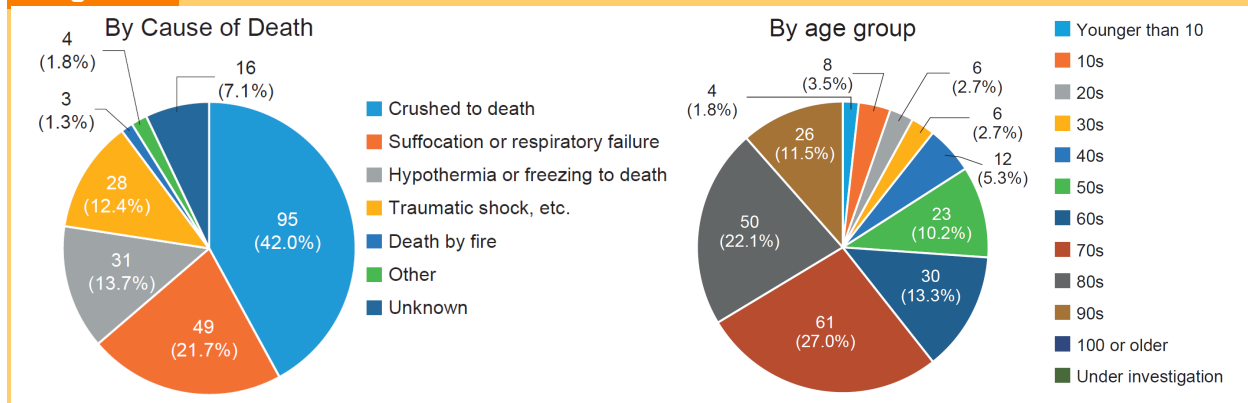
### 1) Human casualties

The earthquake caused many houses to collapse and left 594 people dead or missing (including 364 disaster-related deaths). There were 581 dead in Ishikawa Prefecture (207 in Wajima City with 2 missing, 170 in Suzu City, 66 in Noto Town, 53 in Nanao City, 49 in Anamizu Town, 20 in Shika Town, 6 in Uchinada Town, 5 in Hakui City, 1 in Komatsu City, 1 in Hakusan City, 2 in Nakanoto Town, and 1 in Kanazawa City), 6 in Niigata Prefecture (4 in Niigata City, 2 in Joetsu City), and 5 in Toyama Prefecture (1 in Toyama City, 2 in Takaoka City, 1 in Himi City, 1 in Imizu City) as of May 13, 2025.

According to the National Police Agency (as of the end of February 2025, based on 226 cases of non-disaster-related deaths reported by Ishikawa Prefecture and handled by the police), about 40% of the direct deaths were caused by crushing and about 20% by asphyxiation or respiratory failure, suggesting many people were trapped under collapsed buildings. In addition, just over 10% of the victims died from hypothermia or freezing to death due to the extreme cold. By age group, 61 of the dead were in their 70s, followed by 50 in their 80s and 26 in their 90s, with those in their 70s and older accounting for approximately 60% of the total (Fig. 1-4).

**Fig. 1-4**

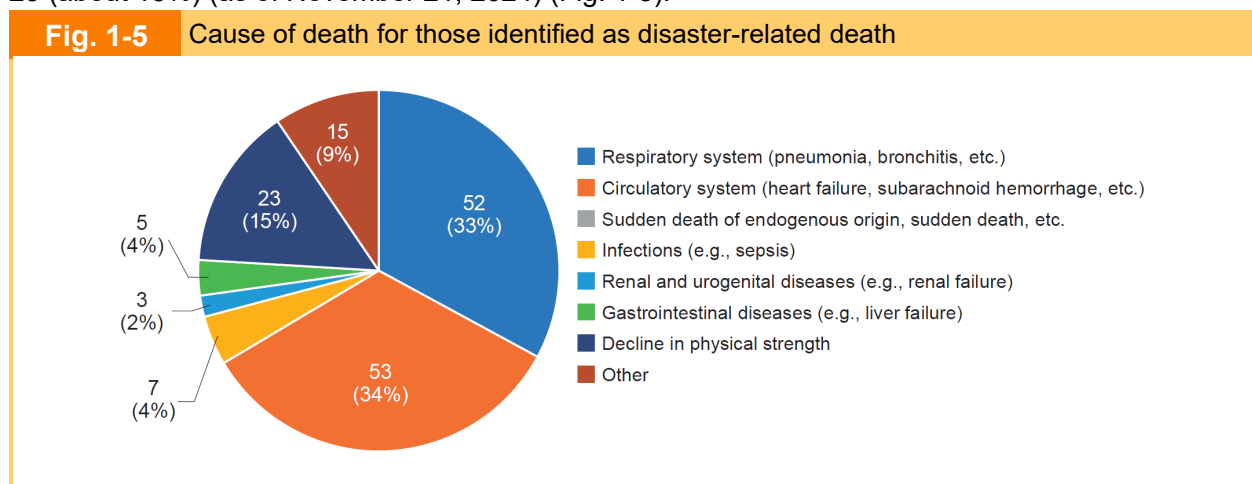
List of fatalities from the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake by cause and date of death



Source: Cabinet Office data

While direct deaths were concentrated in Wajima City and Suzu City (100 and 97 victims, respectively), disaster-related deaths occurred across a wider area, totaling 261: 255 in Ishikawa Prefecture (80 in Wajima City, 54 in Suzu City, 49 in Noto Town, 37 in Nanao City, and 22 in Anamizu Town, 17 in Shika Town, 5 in Uchinada Town, 3 in Hakui City, 1 each in Komatsu City, Hakusan City, and Nakanoto Town), 4 in Niigata Prefecture (Niigata City), and 2 in Toyama Prefecture (Takaoka City).

Of the 136 disaster-related victims whose ages have been disclosed, 47 were in their 90s or older, 62 were in their 80s, 16 in their 70s, 10 in their 60s, and 1 in his 50s. Those in their 80s or older accounted for about 80% of the total, and the proportion of elderly victims is higher than in past disasters. The breakdown of the causes of death for the 158 people whose circumstances have been disclosed is as follows: circulatory system diseases accounted for 53 (about 34%), respiratory system diseases for 52 (about 33%), together comprising about 60% of the total, and physical weakness for 23 (about 15%) (as of November 21, 2024) (Fig. 1-5).



Source: Prepared by the Cabinet Office (CAO) based on information from the National Police Agency

## 2) Building damage

Damage to houses occurred in 11 prefectures (Akita, Fukushima, Saitama, Niigata, Toyama, Ishikawa, Fukui, Nagano, Gifu, Kyoto, and Hyogo), with a total of 6,520 houses completely destroyed (6,151 in Ishikawa, 258 in Toyama, and 111 in Niigata). A total of 158,120 houses were partially destroyed or partially damaged, including 1 in Akita, 1 in Fukushima, 2 in Saitama, 109,907 in Ishikawa, 24,797 in Niigata, 22,544 in Toyama, 842 in Fukui, 21 in Nagano, 2 in Gifu, 2 in Kyoto, and 1 in Hyogo. In addition, 25 houses were flooded either above or below floor level, including 14 in Niigata Prefecture and 11 in Ishikawa Prefecture. As of May 13, 2025, the total number of damaged houses across the affected areas was approximately 165,000. Additionally, around 38,000 non-residential buildings were damaged in Ishikawa Prefecture (as of May 13, 2025<sup>1</sup>).

<sup>1</sup> Ishikawa Prefecture website "Damage Situation (204th Report)"

(Reference: [https://www.pref.ishikawa.lg.jp/saigai/documents/higaihou\\_204.pdf](https://www.pref.ishikawa.lg.jp/saigai/documents/higaihou_204.pdf))



### **(3) Fire outbreak and firefighting activities**

There were eleven incidents of fire in Ishikawa Prefecture, five in Toyama Prefecture, and one in Niigata Prefecture, where local fire departments and fire corps volunteers engaged in firefighting activities. In particular, in Wajima City, Ishikawa Prefecture, a fire broke out at Wajima Morning Market, one of three of Japan's largest morning markets, immediately after the earthquake, damaging approximately 240 buildings and covering an area of about 49,000 square meters. The fire occurred in a densely packed wooden area, where it could spread easily. The local fire department and fire corps volunteers extinguished the fire under difficult conditions, as fire hydrants could not be used due to the water supply being cut off and some water tanks used for firefighting were rendered unusable due to collapsed buildings following the earthquake. The fire was suppressed at 7:30 a.m. on January 2 and was extinguished at 5:10 p.m. on January 6.

After that, the Legal Affairs Bureau registered the loss of destroyed houses around the Wajima Asaichi area that had burned down and lost their structural integrity, and demolition of the area at public expense proceeded, and by September 2024, the removal of debris was largely completed. The "Wajima City Reconstruction Town Development Plan" formulated by Wajima City on February 26, 2025, sets forth a policy to rebuild the area around Wajima Asaichi as a symbol of the city's recovery. The plan aims to strengthen disaster prevention measures while promoting urban development that enables coexistence between Wajima Asaichi, the shopping district, and residential areas.



Fire at Wajima Morning Market  
Source: Kyodo News

Wajima City Reconstruction and Community Development Plan

[https://www.city.wajima.ishikawa.jp/article/2024052800027/file\\_contents/honbu\\_2\\_siryou.pdf](https://www.city.wajima.ishikawa.jp/article/2024052800027/file_contents/honbu_2_siryou.pdf)

### **(4) Response at Shika Nuclear Power Plant**

In response to the earthquake, the government established the Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA)/Cabinet Office Joint Nuclear Accident Alert Headquarters at 4:19 p.m. on January 1, and shared information on the Shika Nuclear Power Station of Hokuriku Electric Power Company. At the Shika Nuclear Power Station of Hokuriku Electric Power Company, although overflowing of water due to a

rippling phenomenon (sloshing) in the spent fuel pool and oil leaks due to some transformer failures occurred, it was confirmed that the necessary safety functions, including the cooling of spent fuel and power supply, were secured.

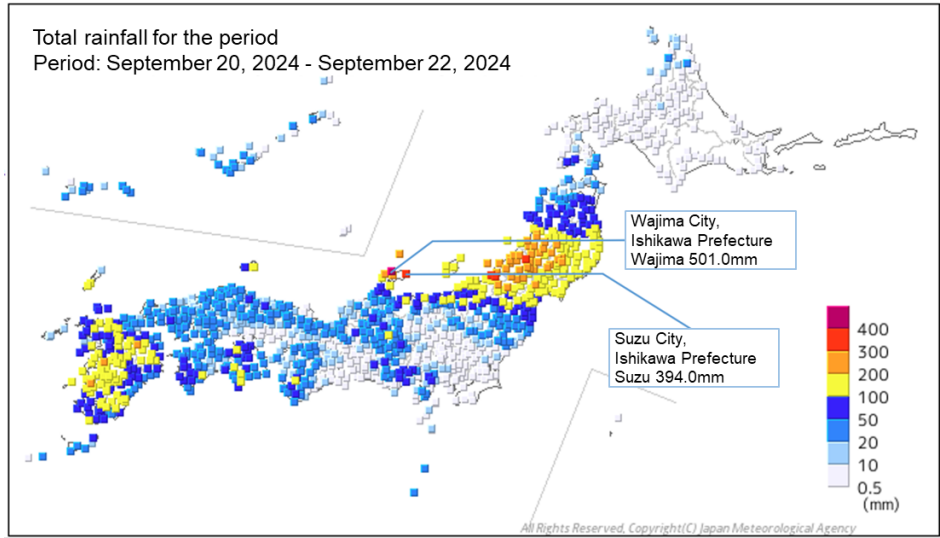
In addition, although measurements could not be confirmed at some of the surrounding monitoring posts, no anomalies were observed in the values indicated by the monitoring posts near the site, and it was confirmed that no issues affecting the safety of the power plant had occurred. Since then, the Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA) has implemented measures to improve the reliability of communications and has worked to diversify its radiation monitoring by enhancing the mobility of its monitoring system through the use of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) surveillance. Efforts will be made to establish a more robust and flexible radiation monitoring system, incorporating the latest technologies and expertise to facilitate: (1) flexible monitoring to make it possible to respond to nuclear disasters promptly and in detail, (2) monitoring with robust and diverse means to maintain functions in the event of a complex disaster, (3) manpower saving, cost reduction, and the DX of monitoring.

## **Section 2: Summary of Heavy Rain from September 20, 2024 and State of Resulting Damages**

### **(1) Overview of heavy rain**

From September 20 to 22, 2024, warm, moist air flowed from the Sea of Japan toward a stationary front and a low-pressure system lingering near Honshu, causing extremely unstable atmospheric conditions and heavy rain with thunderstorms over a wide area from western Japan to the Tohoku region. A stationary linear mesoscale convective system formed in Akita Prefecture at dawn on the 20th and in Ishikawa Prefecture before noon on the 21st. This stationary linear mesoscale convective system caused very violent rains to continue falling in the same area, which rapidly increased the risk of occurrence of heavy rainfall disasters and significantly increased the threat of serious disasters, prompting the Meteorological Agency to issue a heavy rain emergency warning for Wajima City, Suzu City, and Noto Town, Ishikawa Prefecture, on September 21. In Noto, Ishikawa Prefecture, hazardous rain continued to fall on the morning of September 21, with some locations recording the highest one-hour and three-hour precipitation amounts. Total precipitation from September 20 to 22 exceeded 500 mm in some areas, more than double the normal monthly rainfall for September, resulting in record-breaking rainfall on the Sea of Japan side of the Hokuriku and Tohoku regions (Fig. 2-1).

**Fig. 2-1** Total rainfall for the period (September 20, 2024 to September 22, 2024)



Ranking	Prefectures	Municipalities	Location name	Precipitation Amount (mm)
1	Ishikawa Prefecture	Wajima City	Wajima	501.0
2	Ishikawa Prefecture	Suzu City	Suzu	394.0

Source: Japan Meteorological Agency document

**(2) Overview of the damage**

The heavy rains that began on September 20, 2024, caused 28 rivers managed by the prefecture to overflow, resulting in flooding in Ishikawa Prefecture. As a result, 17 people died (16 in Ishikawa Prefecture (11 in Wajima City, 3 in Suzu City, and 2 in Noto Town) and 1 in Kumamoto Prefecture (1 in Otsu Town)), 2 were seriously injured, and 45 sustained minor injuries. Damage to residences included 82 completely destroyed, 724 partially destroyed or damaged, and 1,043 flooded above or below floor level (according to the Fire and Disaster Management Agency, as of January 28, 2025). Lifelines were also damaged, with the suspension of the water supply in Wajima City, Suzu City, and Noto Town, resulting in a maximum of 5,216 water outages, and a maximum of approximately 6,910 units without power in the service area of Hokuriku Electric Power Transmission and Distribution Co.

Damage caused by heavy rain since September 20, 2024



Machinomachi, Wajima City  
Source: Ishikawa Prefecture website



Oya District, Suzu City  
Source: Ishikawa Prefecture website



Noto Town Yanagida Noda Bridge area  
Source: Ishikawa Prefecture website

## Section 3: Response by the Government

### (1) Initial response and establishment of a headquarters system

The government, in response to this earthquake, established the Prime Minister's Office Crisis Response Center at 4:11 p.m. on January 1, 2024. At 4:15 p.m., Kishida, then Prime Minister, issued the following instructions: 1. Provide timely and accurate information to the public regarding the tsunami and evacuation, and thoroughly implement measures to prevent damage, such as resident evacuations; 2. Promptly ascertain the damage situation; and 3. Closely coordinate with local governments and, under the policy of prioritizing human life, work as a unified government to fully engage in emergency disaster response measures, such as rescuing and aiding the victims. The Authorized Disaster Management Headquarters was established at 5:30 p.m. and was upgraded to the Emergency Disaster Countermeasures Headquarters at 10:40 p.m. The first meeting of the Extreme Disaster Management Headquarters was held at 9:15 a.m. on January 2, 2024.

In addition, at 8:00 p.m. on January 1, 2024, a cabinet office investigation team was dispatched to the Ishikawa prefectural office. Furthermore, at 11:22 p.m. on the same day, the On-site Extreme Disaster Management Headquarters (hereinafter referred to as the "On-site Disaster Management Headquarters", headed by Koga, then State Minister of Cabinet Office, was established at the Ishikawa Prefectural Office. The onsite disaster management headquarters established four teams focused on infrastructure, relief supplies, livelihood support, and livelihood reconstruction and worked closely with the Ishikawa Prefectural Office. Specifically, the infrastructure team formed groups with stakeholders from the road, electricity, communications and water supply sectors within the on-site disaster management headquarters since road traffic disruptions caused by landslides, fallen trees, and toppled utility poles partially hindered the restoration of infrastructure. The team coordinated efficient road clearance by clarifying the restoration priorities for damaged infrastructure facilities. Additionally, liaison officers from the Cabinet Office and relevant ministries and agencies were dispatched to six cities and towns in the heavily damaged Noto region (Nanao City, Wajima City, Suzu City, Shika Town, Anamizu Town, and Noto Town) to assess the situation in the affected areas and facilitate communication and coordination with the affected cities and towns.



First meeting of the Extreme Disaster Management Headquarters

Source: Prime Minister's official website



On-site Extreme Disaster Management Headquarters of the Prime Minister's Office Crisis Response Center (Within Ishikawa Prefectural Office) (January 14, 2024)

Source: Cabinet Office

## (2) Rescue and relief activities

After the earthquake occurred, the police, fire-fighters, Japan Coast Guard and Self-Defense Forces coordinated to carry-out large-scale rescue and relief operations, prioritizing the saving of lives.

The police dispatched units from the national police force, including the Wide-Area Emergency Assistance Team, immediately after the disaster. These units, in coordination with the Ishikawa Prefecture police, carried out various police activities such as rescue and relief operations and searching for missing persons. By November 30, approximately 135,000 police personnel had been dispatched to the disaster affected region. They rescued 115 people through operations such as rescuing and evacuating individuals from collapsed houses and conducting hoist rescues using police helicopters.

The Fire and Disaster Management Agency dispatched an emergency firefighting assistance team of approximately 2,000 personnel immediately after the disaster. The emergency firefighting assistance team, along with the local fire department headquarters, totaling about 70,000 personnel, carried out fire extinguishing, rescue operations from collapsed homes, rescue operations from isolated villages using firefighting and disaster prevention helicopters, and transfers from hospitals and elderly care facilities. As a result, 435 people were rescued, and 3,500 people were transported by emergency medical transport (cumulative total since the earthquake on January 1, 2024).

By December 4, 2024, the Japan Coast Guard deployed 4,436 patrol vessels, 922 aircraft, 18 special rescue team members, and 810 mobile rescue personnel to carry out emergency medical transport and search operations for missing persons.

Immediately after the disaster, the Ministry of Defense (MOD) began collecting damage information and conducting search and rescue operations using aircraft in the parts of the peninsula where the road network was cut off. On January 2, 2024, MOD formed a joint task force, with a maximum of 14,000 personnel responding to the situation. From the outset, SDF helicopters were intensively used to save lives, and offshore vessels were used as bases to transport relief supplies, as well as heavy machinery, vehicles, and equipment required for road clearance. By fully utilizing the capabilities of the Ground, Maritime, and Air Self-Defense Forces, approximately 1,040 people were rescued (including the transport of evacuees) as of April 1, 2024.



Hoist rescue by police aircraft (Wajima City)  
Source: National Police Agency



Nighttime activities at the site of a collapsed house  
(Suzu City)  
Source: National Police Agency



Firefighting efforts by fire-fighters and fire corps  
volunteers (Wajima City)  
Source: Fire and Disaster Management Agency



Emergency medical transport of elderly people by  
emergency firefighting rescue teams (Wajima City)  
Source: Fire and Disaster Management Agency



Self-Defense Forces carrying out rescue operations  
(Suzu City)  
Source: Ministry of Defense



Lifesaving efforts by the Self-Defense Forces and  
fire-fighters (Wajima City)  
Source: Ministry of Defense

### (3) Emergency medical activities

After the disaster, many medical institutions in the affected areas were damaged. In addition, even at medical institutions that suffered minor building damage or were spared from partial or total destruction, there were disruptions in staff attendance, patient transport, and the delivery of medical supplies and other items. Therefore, to provide medical support to the victims, Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs), Disaster Psychiatric Assistance Teams (DPATs), Japan Medical Association Teams (JMATs), Japan Red Cross Disaster Relief Team and disaster support nurses were sent to medical institutions and shelters from across the country to carry out emergency medical activities, such as lifesaving measures. In addition, health and sanitation support teams consisting of

medical officers, nurses, and other personnel from the Self-Defense Forces conducted mobile medical consultations, mainly in isolated areas.

To date, the teams dispatched to the affected areas include 1,139 DMATs, who transported injured and sick, evacuated hospitalized patients, and provided hospital support; 213 DPATs, who provided psychological care to evacuees through shelter visits; and 1,096 JMATs, who provided medical support in affected cities, towns and secondary evacuation shelters. In addition, 3,040 disaster support nurses from the Japanese Nursing Association were dispatched to shelters and medical institutions in the affected areas (as of April 1, 2025).

Furthermore, experts in infectious diseases provided advice on infection control in shelters. The Disaster Health Emergency Assistance Teams (hereinafter referred to as “DHEATs”) dispatched from prefectures and designated cities outside the affected prefecture provided support for the command and coordination functions at healthcare centers, etc., and provided healthcare for affected people living in shelters and at homes, etc., by conducting visits based on the list of residents prepared in each city and town by teams of public health nurses dispatched from each local government.



DMAT Patient Transport

Source: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

#### **(4) Procurement and transportation of relief supplies**

Immediately after the disaster, following the Prime Minister’s instructions, the government started “push-type support”, providing essential relief supplies for the lives and living conditions of disaster victims without waiting for requests from the affected areas. On January 2, the first shipment of relief supplies arrived at the wide-area relief supplies transportation hub in Ishikawa Prefecture.

The specific relief supplies included food, drinking water, infant formula and liquid milk, blankets, portable toilets, and other urgently needed relief supplies. In addition, winter clothing, heating devices, and fuel were also provided to address the cold weather. Sanitary products, baby wipes, and infant diapers were also distributed, considering the needs of women and households with children in shelters. In addition, support was provided based on the needs of the affected areas, such as compression stockings to ensure the health of victims, cardboard beds needed to improve the environment in shelters, and relief supplies such as simple laundry kits and washing machines to meet

laundry needs during prolonged water outages. In addition, with the cooperation of private logistics business operators, the Self-Defense Forces and the Ishikawa Prefecture Truck Association primarily handled transport from the wide-area relief supplies transportation hub to local governments in the affected areas. Furthermore, at the relief supplies transportation hubs in affected cities and towns, logistics business operators in each city and town were in charge of transporting terminals to shelters, etc., and specialized volunteer groups handled sorting operations.



Wide-area relief supplies transportation hub  
(Ishikawa Prefectural Industrial Exhibition Hall)  
Source: Cabinet Office



Loading work at Wide-area relief supplies transportation hubs  
with the cooperation of private logistics business  
Source: Cabinet Office



Air transport of supplies by Self-Defense Force helicopter (Wajima Sub-Base)  
Source: Ministry of Defense

## Section 4: Policy Responses

### (1) Application of support systems, etc.

#### 1) Application of the Disaster Relief Act

The “Disaster Relief Act” (Act No. 118 of 1947) was applied to 35 cities, 11 towns, and 1 village in Niigata, Toyama, Ishikawa, and Fukui prefectures (Date of application of the Act: January 1, 2024). The National Treasury made it possible for each prefecture to implement emergency relief measures (such as setting up and running shelters and providing emergency temporary housing). The same law was also applied to three cities and three towns in Ishikawa Prefecture for the heavy rain from September 20, 2024 (date of application: September 21, 2024).

#### 2) Designation of Disaster of Extreme Severity

On January 11, 2024, based on the “Act on Special Financial Support to Deal with the Designated

Disaster of Extreme Severity” (Act No. 150 of 1962), a Cabinet Order was passed designating this disaster as a Disaster of Extreme Severity (a major disaster not limited to a specific region). As a result, a total of 12 measures were applied (including additional designation by the Cabinet decision on February 9, 2024), including special financial assistance for disaster recovery projects for public civil engineering facilities, special measures for subsidies for disaster recovery projects related to agricultural land, and special provisions for disaster-related guarantees under the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise Credit Insurance Act. The Cabinet also approved a Cabinet order on October 25 of the same year for the designation of heavy rain from September 20, 2024.

### **3) Designation of specific emergency disasters**

On January 11, 2024, based on the “Act on Special Measures concerning Preservation of Rights and Interests of Victims of Specified Disaster” (Act No. 85 of 1996), a Cabinet Order was passed designating the disaster caused by the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake as a Specified Disaster and applied the following measures to this Specified Disaster: Extension of the expiration date pertaining to administrative rights and interests, Exemption from the responsibilities pertaining to unfulfilled duties, Exception of orders of commencement of bankruptcy proceedings for corporations on the grounds of insolvency, Exception for the period for accepting or renouncing inheritance, and Exception of the fees for filing of a petition for conciliation under the Civil Conciliation Act.

### **4) Designation of a Major disaster under the Large-Scale Disaster Reconstruction Act**

Based on the “Act on Reconstruction from Large-Scale Disasters” (Act No. 55 of 2013; hereinafter referred to as the “Large-Scale Disaster Reconstruction Act”), a Cabinet Order was passed on January 19, 2024, designating disaster caused by the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake as an Extreme Disaster. As a result, disaster recovery work for damaged ports (8 ports including Nanao Port), airports (Noto Airport), beaches (3 beaches including Horyu Shoin Beach), agricultural landslides (Inabune District), agricultural beaches (7 beaches including Ishizaki Beach), private forests (9 locations in 5 areas including Koutokuji District), fishing port beaches (Ukai Fishing Port Beach), fishing ports (Noroshi Fishing Port (Noroshi District)), and landslide countermeasures (coastal areas of National Highway 249) were carried out by the national government on behalf of the local government under its delegated authority.

### **5) Measures for the Reconstruction of Livelihoods**

On January 6, 2024, Ishikawa Prefecture decided to apply the “Act on Support for Reconstructing Livelihoods of Disaster Victims” (Act No. 66 of 1998) to all areas (19 municipalities). Subsequently, Toyama Prefecture (all areas (15 municipalities)) and Niigata Prefecture (all areas (30 municipalities)) also decided to apply the Act. Based on this Act, if a house met certain requirements, such as being destroyed or otherwise damaged, the affected family living in that house was to be paid a basic support grant (up to 1 million yen) and an additional support grant (up to 2 million yen) depending on the damage to the house and the method of rebuilding the house. As for the heavy rain from September 20, 2024, Ishikawa Prefecture decided to apply the same law to Wajima City and Suzu City on October

9 of the same year.

Six cities and towns in the Noto region (Nanao City, Wajima City, Suzu City, Shika Town, Anamizu Town, and Noto Town) are facing particularly severe damage compared to other areas. Many people have been forced to evacuate from their homes due to the geographical constraints of the peninsula, such as a severe shortage of land suitable for building houses, as well as a significantly high proportion of elderly people. Given the circumstances and the characteristics of the region, where significant and complex challenges need to be overcome for the revitalization of local communities, Ishikawa Prefecture has introduced a new grant system (Temporary Special Grant for Supporting Regional Welfare Promotion) and provided up to 3 million yen for households with elderly or disabled people whose houses have been half-destroyed or worse, and households that are likely to have difficulties in borrowing or repaying their loans in the relevant area.

In addition, based on the “Act on Provision of Disaster Condolence Grants” (Act No. 82 of 1973), disaster condolence grants were provided to the families of those killed in the disaster and disaster disability relief grants were provided to individuals who have suffered severe disabilities due to the disaster. Furthermore, disaster assistance funds were provided to heads of households who fulfilled the requirements.

## **(2) Wide-area support for disaster-affected areas and local governments**

In this disaster, many organizations from outside the affected areas have rushed to the aid of victims and local governments in the affected areas.

As mentioned in the previous section, various units, including the police (Police Disaster Dispatch Team), fire department (Emergency Firefighting Assistance Team), Self-Defense Forces, and the Japan Coast Guard units, were dispatched to the affected areas for emergency and rescue operations. In addition, many medical and welfare professionals, including DMAT, DPAT, JMAT, the Japan Disaster Dental Assistance Team (JDAT), the Japan Disaster Rehabilitation Assistance Team (JRAT), DHEAT, teams of public health nurses, the Disaster Infection Control Team (DICT) established by the Japanese Society for Environmental Infectious Diseases, the Japan Dietetic Association - Disaster Assistance Team (JDA-DAT), and the Disaster Welfare Assistance Team (DWAT), along with disaster support nurses and care workers, were dispatched to the affected areas to provide medical care and welfare support.

The TEC-FORCE (Technical Emergency Control Force of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism; hereinafter referred to as the “TEC-FORCE”) was dispatched to assess the damage to public facilities, support disaster recovery projects and transport, such as emergency transport of evacuees and transport of emergency supplies, and to assess the level of emergency risk of damaged buildings, in addition to road clearance. In addition, specialized organizations were dispatched by various ministries and agencies, including MAFF-SAT (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Support and Advice Team), to assist with disaster recovery in various fields and support the disaster victims.



Confirmation of assessment targets by TEC-FORCE  
(Suzu City)

Source: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and  
Tourism (MLIT)



TEC-FORCE filling out and attaching assessment stickers  
(Anamizu Town)

Source: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and  
Tourism (MLIT)



MAFF-SAT installs blue tarps on damaged reservoir  
(Shika Town)

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
(MAFF)



Inspection of agricultural village drainage facilities using  
MAFF-SAT (Noto Town)

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
(MAFF)

Wide-area support was provided on a large scale by local governments across the country to affected local governments. General Adviser Teams were dispatched from six prefectures and cities to six affected cities and towns in the Noto region to support disaster management by the affected local governments (until June 21). In addition, support teams were dispatched from 63 prefectures and cities to 14 cities and towns in Ishikawa Prefecture, 3 cities in Toyama Prefecture, and 1 city in Niigata Prefecture to assist with disaster response operations such as shelter management and issuance of disaster victim certificates (until August 4). In addition, for the emergency response and restoration of infrastructure and lifelines, support teams from across the country were dispatched to restore water supply, electricity, and communications. Since the water supply in the affected areas was disrupted for an extended period, water tankers and toilet trailers were also sent by local governments and other organizations nationwide.

After the occurrence of the disaster, many supporters, including personnel from supporting local governments, recovery business operators, and volunteers, entered the affected areas and provided a wide range of support. However, hotels and inns in the affected areas also suffered severe damage, and there was a shortage of accommodation. For this reason, Ishikawa Prefecture and other areas came to the aid of supporters by securing and improving accommodation facilities for them, using special tax allocation measures and the temporary facility development support program by the

### **(3) Support Package, Financial Measures, and Tax Responses**

On January 2, 2024, by decision of the Prime Minister, the government held the “Team to Support for Reconstructing Lives and Livelihood of the Affected due to the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake” led by the Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary and comprising vice ministers of various ministries and agencies, to provide swift and seamless support for the reconstruction of the lives and livelihoods of those affected by the disaster. On January 25, 2024, based on the results of discussions by the support team and others, the government announced<sup>2</sup> the “Package for the Restoration of Lives and Livelihoods of the Affected” (approved by the Emergency Disaster Management Headquarters for the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake; hereinafter referred to as “the Support Package”), compiling emergency measures that the government should take in the areas of “reconstruction of lives”, “reconstruction of livelihoods”, and “disaster recovery, etc.”<sup>2</sup>

In addition, the government responded flexibly to changing financial needs by utilizing the general reserve fund, etc., from the FY 2023 budget, which had a remaining balance of over 460 billion yen at the time of the disaster. Specifically, on January 9, 2024, the Government decided to use the reserve fund (approximately 4.7 billion yen) to provide financial support for immediate push-type material support. The decision was made to use 155.3 billion yen on January 26, 2024, 116.7 billion yen on March 1, 138.9 billion yen on April 23, 2024, and 139.6 billion yen on June 28, 2024, as the financial resources necessary to implement the support package. In addition, the use of reserve funds for the Noto Peninsula Earthquake was also decided: 108.8 billion yen on September 10, 2024, 50.9 billion yen on October 11, 2024, and 106.8 billion yen on February 28, 2025, bringing the total amount of reserve funds used for recovery and reconstruction in the Noto region to 821.7 billion yen. In particular, the preliminary budget approved on February 28, 2025 included 50 billion yen for the “Noto Creative Reconstruction Support Grant” as a highly flexible grant to enable flexible and dynamic response to measures necessary for the creative reconstruction of Noto. In addition, the supplementary budget for fiscal 2024 approved on December 17, 2024, provided a total of 268.4 billion yen (106.2 billion yen for reconstruction of lives, 18.8 billion yen for reconstruction of livelihoods, and 143.4 billion yen for disaster recovery) for recovery and reconstruction from the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake and the heavy rain disaster. The initial budget for FY2025 also includes plans to continue addressing the needs of affected areas seamlessly, including support for the reconstruction of lives and livelihoods and infrastructure restoration.

As a local financial measure for the affected local governments, on January 9, 2024, it was decided to advance the payment of a portion of the special tax allocation (26.14 billion yen) due in March 2024 to 51 organizations in Ishikawa Prefecture and 17 cities and towns within the prefecture, while a similar decision was taken on February 9, 2024, for Ishikawa Prefecture and 7 cities and towns within the

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<sup>2</sup> Cabinet Office website “Package of Measures to Support the Daily Lives and Livelihoods of Disaster Victims”



(Reference: [https://www.bousai.go.jp/pdf/240125\\_shien.pdf](https://www.bousai.go.jp/pdf/240125_shien.pdf))

prefecture, in order to facilitate their short-term cash flow. On March 22, 2024, a decision was made regarding the payment of the special tax allocation for FY 2023, of which 40.2 billion yen was allocated for disaster-related expenses for the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake. In addition, new special tax allocation measures were implemented for the cost of securing accommodation for support staff and other personnel centrally in Ishikawa Prefecture, and local financial measures were upgraded for disaster recovery projects for water and sewage and the “Residential Land Liquefaction Prevention Project”, which is an area-wide liquefaction countermeasure that includes neighboring residential areas. In addition, on June 25, 2024, a special tax allocation of 52 billion yen was made to Ishikawa Prefecture to establish a fund for the recovery from the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake.

In terms of the taxation system, in addition to extending the deadline for filing and paying income tax, etc., based on the “Act on Temporary Special Provisions of the Income Tax Act and Act on Reduction or Release, Deferment of Collection and Other Measures Related to Tax Imposed on Disaster Victims of the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake Disaster” (Act No. 1 of 2024), which was enacted on February 21, 2024 (promulgated and enforced on the same day), measures were implemented to enable the application of miscellaneous loss deductions in the calculation of income tax for the year 2023 and individual inhabitant tax for the year 2024 for losses on assets such as housing and household goods, income tax reduction and exemption for the year 2023 under the Special Provisions of the Disaster Exemption Act, and inclusion of losses from business assets as necessary expenses for the calculation of income tax for the year 2023.

In addition, households, including those affected by the disaster whose individual inhabitant tax has been fully exempted, were made eligible for price inflation support for tax-exempt households (a total of 100,000 yen/household, with an additional 50,000 yen/person for children).

#### **(4) Response to the generous support for the affected areas**

Ishikawa Prefecture established the Ishikawa Prefecture Noto Peninsula Earthquake Disaster Relief Donation Distribution Committee to fairly distribute the donations (approximately 75.6 billion yen as of October 14, 2024) received as expressions of sympathy for the victims of the earthquake. Since the first meeting held on February 1, 2024, the committee has decided on the first through fourth distribution plans. As a result, Ishikawa Prefecture decided to distribute donations of 1.8 million yen for the dead and missing, 900,000 yen for persons with disaster-related disabilities, 100,000 yen for the seriously injured, and 1.8 million yen for completely destroyed homes. As of the end of January 2025, approximately 108,000 cases related to personal and home damage had been processed, with around 40.3 billion yen distributed. In addition, approximately 124,000 people received the special benefit of 50,000 yen, which was uniformly distributed to all residents of six cities and towns, totaling around 6.2 billion yen<sup>3</sup>. Similarly, in Niigata, Toyama, and Fukui Prefectures, the distribution of donations based on decisions by their respective Donation Distribution Committees was also carried

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<sup>3</sup> Ishikawa Prefecture website: “2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake Disaster Relief Fund Distribution Committee”

(Reference: <https://www.pref.ishikawa.lg.jp/kousei/gienkinbussi/r6notohantoujishingienkin.html>)



out and provided to affected people.

## **(5) Recovery and reconstruction support**

### **1) 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake Recovery and Reconstruction Support Headquarters**

On January 31, 2024, the government established the “2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake Recovery and Reconstruction Support Headquarters” (hereinafter referred to as the “Support Headquarters”) headed by the Prime Minister and comprising all Cabinet members to expedite and strengthen the recovery and reconstruction from the Noto Peninsula Earthquake through close collaboration between relevant ministries and agencies. Specifically, following the compilation of the Support Package on January 25, 2024, the Headquarters was tasked with 1. confirming the progress of recovery and reconstruction efforts by each ministry and agency, 2. ensuring that measures are aligned across ministries, and 3. liaising and coordinating on the execution of the reserve fund and other related matters. The Support Headquarters has met a total of 12 times since February 1, 2024 (as of April 1, 2025), and while responding to the needs of the affected areas, it has flexibly utilized reserve funds and other resources to promote recovery and reconstruction through infrastructure and lifeline restoration, support for affected people and businesses, and other measures. At the 9th meeting of the Support Headquarters held on August 26, 2024, the government presented the “Basic Direction for Strengthening Disaster Response Based on Lessons from the Noto Peninsula Earthquake,” outlining plans to strengthen the national disaster response system, enhance support systems that closely meet the needs of victims, and improve coordination during initial response efforts. In particular, it was decided that institutional reforms, including potential legal amendments, would be considered to strengthen the command structure, enhance national support organizations, further improve shelter conditions, bolster welfare response systems, and reinforce cooperation with specialized volunteer organizations.

### **2) Ishikawa Prefecture’s response**

Meanwhile, on February 1, 2024, Ishikawa Prefecture established the Ishikawa Prefecture Headquarters for Restoration and Recovery from the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, headed by the Governor, to coordinate various initiatives for creative reconstruction in the affected areas in collaboration with the national government. In June of the same year, the prefecture compiled and released the Ishikawa Prefecture Creative Reconstruction Plan. The Plan sets “Noto shows the future of our hometown” as the slogan for creative reconstruction, and divides the nine-year period until the end of FY2032, the target year of the prefectural growth strategy, into short-term (two years), medium-term (five years), and long-term (nine years). Based on 12 basic principles, such as “respecting the future of the region as conceived by the region,” “working on reconstruction through cooperation among all entities,” and “fully reflecting the voices of young people and the current generation,” the plan aims to achieve creative reconstruction through initiatives such as the Leading Project for Creative Reconstruction. In particular, 13 symbolic projects, including the expansion of the population involved through the reconstruction process and the promotion of the Noto Satellite Campus concept, are positioned as “Leading Creative Reconstruction Projects” and will be developed as successful

examples of reconstruction, to be communicated within and outside the prefecture as symbols of creative recovery that will help restore vitality to Noto.

In addition, Ishikawa Prefecture added approximately 1.98 billion yen, equivalent to half of the proceeds from the Noto Peninsula Earthquake disaster area lottery, to the 52 billion yen in special tax allocation granted for the creation of a reconstruction fund, for a total of approximately 53.98 billion yen. In the Reconstruction Fund, 28 projects were listed in the basic menu based on requests from municipalities. In addition, municipal quotas were allocated according to the damage to houses, disaster recovery project expenses, and the number of evacuees received by each municipality, so that municipalities can quickly and flexibly utilize the fund to address issues specific to their regions.

In addition, Ishikawa Prefecture and six Noto cities and towns established the Noto Public-Private Partnership Recovery Center on October 21, 2024, as a coordinating organization to support local groups, address issues such as lack of know-how, manpower, and funding for reconstruction, and effectively connect various support efforts from across the country. The center began operations on the same day.

### **3) Noto Creative Reconstruction Task Force Meeting**

In order for the six cities and towns of Noto to start full-fledged reconstruction and urban development in accordance with the policies of the Ishikawa Creative Reconstruction Plan formulated by Ishikawa Prefecture, it is necessary for the national, prefectural, and municipal governments to work closely together to confirm the progress of projects and resolve issues that arise in the field. In the affected Noto region, the Noto Reconstruction Office of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), along with other related ministries, agencies, and organizations, is strengthening its support system for recovery and reconstruction by establishing local offices and dispatching staff. To further strengthen coordination between these organizations and Ishikawa Prefecture and the six cities and towns, and to promote creative reconstruction, the government established the Noto Creative Reconstruction Task Force, chaired by the Cabinet Secretariat's Director for Recovery and Reconstruction Support (a position newly established on April 1, 2024 to strengthen response to the Noto Peninsula Earthquake), with the Ishikawa Prefecture Governor serving as acting chairperson. As of May 2025, the Task Force has held seven meetings since July 1, 2024. The task force meeting is discussing various issues related to recovery and reconstruction, including the promotion of demolition at public expense, reconstruction town planning, reconstruction of livelihoods, and infrastructure restoration.

### **4) Local structures to support recovery and reconstruction**

In addition to the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake Recovery and Reconstruction Support Headquarters and the Noto Creative Reconstruction Task Force Meeting, the national government has been enhancing local support systems at related ministries and agencies in order to support recovery and reconstruction in the Noto region.

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) established the Noto Reconstruction Office within the Hokuriku Regional Development Bureau on February 16, 2024, and

the Noto Port and Airport Reconstruction Promotion Office within the Kanazawa Port and Airport Development Office in Nanao City, in order to accelerate and strongly promote recovery and reconstruction. Both offices are working on river, erosion control, coastal, road, port, and airport projects for recovery and reconstruction. Furthermore, on April 1, 2024, the Noto Waterworks and Sewerage Reconstruction Support Office was established in Nanao City as part of the National Institute for Land and Infrastructure Management, and is engaged in integrated disaster response for water and sewage systems and support for disaster-stricken municipalities.

The Hokuriku Agricultural Administration Bureau of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries established the Noto Peninsula Earthquake Disaster Recovery Field Office in Anamizu Town on April 1, 2024, in order to expedite a series of surveys and construction projects to be carried out by the national government on behalf of local authorities, including recovery and reconstruction of coastal facilities in Nanao City, Wajima City, and Anamizu Town, landslide prevention work in Wajima City, and dam recovery work in Suzu City.

The Kinki-Chugoku Regional Forest Office of the Forestry Agency established the Okunoto Area Mountain Disaster Recovery Office within the Ishikawa Regional Forest Office and opened an office in Kanazawa City (inside the Ishikawa Prefectural Agriculture and Forestry Research Center) to ensure the smooth implementation of recovery measures.

The Fisheries Agency established the Fisheries Agency Ishikawa Prefecture Field Office in Kanazawa City on March 22, 2024 (relocated to Anamizu Town on April 12, 2024) to strengthen local response capabilities for fisheries-related measures.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications dispatched support staff from the Ministry and its administrative consultation centers nationwide to the Ishikawa Administrative Evaluation Office in Kanazawa City to strengthen support for disaster victims, including the provision of life support information (see p. 37 column for details) and handling of consultations from disaster victims.

The Regional Economy Vitalization Corporation of Japan (REVIC) and the Organization for Small & Medium Enterprises and Regional Innovation, Japan (SMRJ) established the Noto Peninsula Earthquake Reconstruction Assistance Fund on April 1, 2024, in cooperation with Ishikawa Prefecture, regional financial institutions, and others, to address the double debt problem faced by business operators affected by the disaster. On the same day, the Noto Industrial Recovery Support Center was established within the Ishikawa Industrial Creation Support Organization, and since then, it has been providing various consultations, including financial support for recovery and reconstruction, to businesses affected by the Noto Peninsula Earthquake. In addition, on June 3, 2024, the Noto Industrial Recovery Support Center Okunoto Satellite Office was opened at Noto Airport to expand the consultation system for businesses affected in the Okunoto region. Since then, the center has been providing various consultations, including financial support for recovery and reconstruction from the Noto Peninsula Earthquake.

The Urban Renaissance Agency (hereinafter referred to as “UR”) established the Noto Peninsula Earthquake Reconstruction Support Office Ishikawa Office in Kanazawa City on April 16, 2024, to support the reconstruction of the affected municipalities.

## 5) Response to the heavy rain from September 20, 2024

In the affected area on the Noto Peninsula, 222 emergency temporary housing units were flooded above floor level due to heavy rain that began on September 20, 2024. In addition to efforts by Ishikawa Prefecture and the affected municipalities, the national government supported the flood damage response by allocating 268.4 billion yen in a supplementary budget for the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake and torrential rain disaster, as well as through the above-mentioned Recovery and Reconstruction Support Headquarters and task force meetings. From October 6, 2024 to March 31, 2025, a total of approximately 700 food trucks were dispatched with the cooperation of companies and industry organizations to provide hot meals in the affected areas.



Dispatched food trucks

## Section 5: Restoration Status of Affected Areas

### (1) Damage and restoration status of infrastructure

#### 1) Roads

Many roads, including National Route 249, the main artery of the Noto Peninsula, were damaged due to collapses, slope failures, cracks, and steps. In Ishikawa Prefecture in particular, 87 prefectural roads, including the Noto-Satoyama Kaido, National Route 249, the Suzu Doro, and the Nanao-Wajima Line, were closed to traffic, and the entire Okunoto region was cut off, making access difficult. Since many roads in the Noto Peninsula were closed, the influx of traffic to the affected areas was concentrated on certain roads, causing traffic congestion in many areas and hindering the transport of relief supplies and recovery operations. In addition, up to 3,345 persons in 33 districts were isolated due to road closures, unable to receive assistance and making the restoration of access to isolated communities an urgent issue.

Therefore, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) began emergency restoration of trunk roads on January 2, 2024, about 80% of the trunk roads in the peninsula were reopened to traffic on January 9, and on January 15, this percentage further increased to about 90%. As a result, on January 19, access was established practically with all communities. On January 23, the MLIT decided to take over full-scale restoration work on behalf of Ishikawa Prefecture, and restoration work proceeded. As of February 2025, the number of road closures due to the earthquake was 11 (3 of which were open to emergency vehicles).

At the same time, the heavy rains that began on September 20, 2024, closed National Route 249

(coastal area) and 48 other prefectural roads in Wajima, Suzu, and other cities. Although heavy rain again caused damage in the Okunoto region, National Route 249 between Monzenmachi, Wajima City, and Suzu City via the coastal area became passable in December as previously targeted. In addition, all prefectural roads that had been secured as of the end of August (excluding those related to long-term evacuation shelters) are now open to traffic. As of February 2025, there were eight road closures due to heavy rain (three of which were open to emergency vehicles).



A detour route utilizing the uplifted coastline (near Shirome Senmaida, National Route 249)

## 2) Airports

Noto Airport was closed from the beginning of the disaster due to numerous small cracks in the runway, damage to lights, etc. However, the airport began to receive rescue helicopters the day following the disaster and fixed-wing aircraft of the SDF on January 12, 2024, after the hours for receiving rescue aircraft were extended and the runway was emergency restored. Commercial flights between Noto and Haneda resumed on January 27, 2024, with one round trip per day, three days a week, and on April 15, 2024, with one round trip per day, and on December 25, 2024, with two round trips per day, the same frequency as before the disaster. On February 1, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) decided to take over full-scale recovery on behalf of Ishikawa Prefecture under the Act on Reconstruction of Large-Scale Disasters, and will proceed with the recovery of major facilities such as the runway while ensuring continued use. The work is scheduled for completion by the end of FY2025.

## 3) Ports (excluding fishing ports)

Damage to wharves and breakwaters was confirmed at 22 of the 29 ports in Niigata, Toyama, Ishikawa, and Fukui Prefectures (including the ports of Nanao, Wajima, and Iida). At the request of Ishikawa Prefecture, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) began partial management of port facilities at six ports in the Noto region (Nanao, Wajima, Iida, Ogi, Udezu, and Anamizu) on January 2, 2024, based on the Port and Harbor Law (Law No. 218, 1950). MLIT conducted inspections, assessed the usability of damaged facilities at each port, carried out emergency restoration, and coordinated the use of wharves for support vessels and other ships

(completed on August 1, 2024).

On February 1, 2024, at the request of Ishikawa Prefecture, Toyama Prefecture, and Nanao City, the MLIT was assigned to undertake part of the full-scale restoration of damaged port and coastal facilities at eight ports, including the six mentioned above plus Fushikitoyama Port and Wakura Port, under the Act on Reconstruction of Large-Scale Disasters. Full-scale restoration work began at all eight ports within FY2024.



The *Nippon Maru* calls at Nanao Port, where recovery is underway

#### 4) Railways

Immediately after the disaster, railway operations were suspended in the affected prefectures. However, the Hokuriku Shinkansen and JR Hokuriku Line resumed operations on January 2, 2024. The JR Nanao Line (from Tsubata to Wakuraonsen), which suffered damage that included warped rails and tilted support pillars, resumed operation between Takamatsu and Hakui on January 15, between Hakui and Nanao on January 22, and between Nanao and Wakuraonsen on February 15. On the third-sector Noto Railway Nanao Line (Wakuraonsen to Anamizu), which was severely damaged by a large influx of earth and sand and extensive roadbed damage, TEC-FORCE and the Railway Disaster Investigation Team (RAIL-FORCE) of the Japan Railway Construction, Transport, and Technology Agency were dispatched to the site. The teams surveyed the damage and provided technical advice to the railway operator. Thanks to the early start of debris removal and the smooth progress of hauling operations, service resumed between Wakuraonsen and Noto-Nakajima stations on February 15, and on the entire line on April 6.



The day of resumption of operations of all lines of the Noto Railway



Support activities by the Railway Disaster Investigation Team

## 5) Landslide disasters/river and coastal damage

The 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake caused 456 sediment (landslide) disasters (424 in Ishikawa, 18 in Niigata, and 14 in Toyama Prefectures) (as of January 2025), with 6 rivers (14 locations) in Ishikawa confirmed to have blocked river channels. The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) had been implementing emergency sediment disaster countermeasures in the coastal areas of the Kawarada River, Machino River, and National Route 249 in Ishikawa Prefecture, where sediment and driftwood had accumulated on unstable slopes and streams, posing a high risk of secondary disasters due to future rainfall. However, heavy rainfall since September 20, 2024, caused 273 new sediment disasters (landslides) in Ishikawa Prefecture (as of February 2025). Due to the heavy rain, and based on a request from Ishikawa Prefecture, MLIT began direct erosion control works in the Tsukada River (Wajima City) and other areas requiring immediate countermeasures. These emergency measures are scheduled to be completed by the 2025 flood season. In addition, permanent measures are being implemented based on the schedule announced in December 2024.

In addition, the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake caused damage to facilities in 4 rivers managed by the national government and 113 rivers managed by the prefecture (as of January 2025). Furthermore, heavy rains from September 2024 caused inundation damage due to flooding in 28 prefectural rivers. In Ishikawa Prefecture, damage to facilities has been confirmed in 38 prefectural rivers (as of October 2024). Due to this heavy rain, new damage occurred, including river blockages, facility damage, and sediment and flood overflows. In response, the MLIT began emergency restoration work under delegated authority on five prefectural rivers requiring urgent measures, including the Tsukada River (Wajima City) and the Suzu Oyagawa River (Suzu City). These emergency measures are scheduled to be completed by the 2025 flood season. Restoration and improvement work will begin in areas where emergency measures have been completed. Based on the Okunoto Area Emergency Flood Control Project (announced in March 2025), the goal is to complete restoration of damaged revetments by the end of FY2026, and improvement works such as river channel widening by the end of FY2028.

In addition, the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake caused damage to 12 coastal areas in Ishikawa Prefecture, including breakwaters and revetments. At the Horyujoin Coast, the MLIT, acting under

delegated authority, will carry out restoration work in coordination with the local reconstruction and community development plan.



Construction of landslide prevention work under delegated authority (Wajima City, Ishikawa Prefecture)

## 6) Educational and childcare facilities

A total of 32 national schools, 890 public schools, 102 private schools, and 768 social, sports, and cultural facilities in Niigata, Toyama, and Ishikawa prefectures sustained physical damage, with some school facilities confirmed to have suffered ground and foundation damage (as of May 30, 2024). In Ishikawa Prefecture, which was particularly hard-hit, 86 public schools closed temporarily on January 9, 2024, after the winter break was over (by February 6, 2024, all schools had resumed some educational activities, making use of shortened classes and online learning). Junior high schools in Wajima City, Suzu City, and Noto Town were mass evacuated to facilities in Kanazawa City and Hakusan City (from January 17 to March 22, 2024). Many schools were also used as shelters.

After that, emergency measures were taken to secure places for learning, and temporary school buildings were constructed. In the Okunoto area, which was particularly hard hit, eight schools in one city and two towns began holding classes in temporary school buildings starting in the second semester (September 2024). For school buildings undergoing repairs and restoration, designs for full-scale restoration have been sequentially completed, and construction is underway, with the government providing support through the Public School Buildings and Other Disaster Restoration Expense Contribution program.

In addition, 394 child welfare facilities, including daycare centers, were confirmed to have sustained property damage, mainly in Niigata, Toyama, and Ishikawa prefectures (as of May 14, 2024). Two heavily damaged daycare centers in Ishikawa Prefecture had temporarily reopened by renting space in an elementary school, but as of April 2025, both had resumed care in their original buildings. In the two cities and two towns of Okunoto, children have been able to attend one of the daycare centers within commuting distance. Although the number of childcare workers decreased after the disaster, the government has secured sufficient staff by recruiting childcare workers nationwide to work in the Noto Peninsula and establishing a system to dispatch public-sector childcare workers from across Japan. The Children and Families Agency continues to develop a system to ensure that children who

have been secondarily evacuated can receive childcare when they return home, while also supporting initiatives to create spaces for children during disasters, such as providing opportunities for play and learning.

## **7) Cultural properties**

All 17 historical buildings of Sojiji Temple in Monzenmachi, Wajima City, which are registered tangible cultural properties of Japan, were damaged. A total of 429 cultural properties were damaged, mainly in Niigata, Toyama, and Ishikawa prefectures, including 58 national treasures and important cultural properties (buildings), 6 important cultural properties (arts and crafts), and 184 registered tangible cultural properties (buildings) (as of November 8, 2024). In addition, many people involved with intangible cultural assets, including the important intangible cultural asset Wajima lacquerware, were affected by the disaster.

For tangible cultural properties damaged in the disaster, cultural property doctors were dispatched to take emergency measures for buildings, and a cultural property rescue project was implemented to prevent the destruction and dispersal of artworks and crafts. For nationally registered tangible cultural properties, the Agency for Cultural Affairs and the Independent Administrative Institution National Institutes for Cultural Heritage cooperated to dispatch specialist staff and increased the government subsidy rate for disaster restoration projects. In addition, the government provided support to the Ishikawa Prefectural Wajima Institute of Urushi Arts in connection with intangible cultural assets, and classes at the institute resumed on October 7, 2024.

## **8) Hospitals and social welfare facilities**

As of July 30, 2024, a total of 26 medical facilities (including clinics), including 19 in Ishikawa Prefecture, were confirmed to have been damaged, and two hospitals were confirmed to have buildings at risk of collapse (patients had already been evacuated from these buildings). Electrical blackouts occurred at three facilities, and 23 facilities experienced water outages, but as of July 30, 2024, the water supply had been restored at all hospitals in Ishikawa Prefecture. Essential medical functions at the four public hospitals in the northern region of Noto, which played a central role in securing the healthcare system in the affected areas, were maintained immediately after the disaster through the provision of medical care and wide-area evacuation support by DMAT, etc., and the dispatch of nurses to provide assistance. The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare is working to reopen medical facilities damaged by the disaster by removing the upper limit on the standard amount for facilities eligible for subsidies for disaster recovery expenses for medical facilities, and by increasing the subsidy rate for public medical facilities.

As for social welfare facilities, up to 307 facilities for the elderly, including 191 facilities in Ishikawa Prefecture, were confirmed to have suffered damage, with 30 facilities without power and 161 facilities having their water supply cut off. In addition, as of April 2025, 16 of the 28 elderly care facilities that had suspended operations in six cities and towns in the Noto region (Suzu City, Wajima City, Nanao City, Noto Town, Anamizu Town, and Shika Town) have reopened. In addition, up to 48 facilities for people with disabilities, including 41 facilities in Ishikawa Prefecture, were confirmed to have been

affected, with six facilities experiencing power outages and 30 facilities without water supply. As of April 1, 2025, 38 of the 46 facilities for persons with disabilities that had suspended operations in six cities and towns in the Noto region (Suzu City, Wajima City, Nanao City, Noto Town, Anamizu Town, and Shika Town) have reopened. The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare is also supporting the reopening of social welfare facilities damaged by the disaster, including by increasing the subsidy rate for disaster recovery expenses for social welfare facilities and providing support for additional expenses associated with the reopening of welfare facilities and offices for persons with disabilities that were closed or downsized due to the disaster, in order to secure welfare and nursing care personnel.

## **(2) Damage and restoration of lifelines**

### **1) Power and gas**

Up to approximately 40,000 households within the service area of Hokuriku Electric Power Transmission & Distribution Company were left without power on January 1 due to collapsed utility poles and snapped wires. Hokuriku Electric Power Transmission and Distribution Co., Ltd. worked to quickly resolve power outages at evacuation shelters where electrical blackouts continued, and on March 15 of the same year, the company restored power except for houses where electricity could not be used for safety reasons (for which Hokuriku Electric Power Transmission and Distribution Co., Ltd. implemented safety measures).

In the affected areas, city gas supply, which was widely used mainly in urban areas such as Kanazawa City, Ishikawa Prefecture, was temporarily suspended in some areas due to pipeline damage caused by liquefaction at the initial stage of the disaster. However, by January 4, 2024, the damage and supply disruptions in the gas production and general gas pipeline businesses had been resolved. Supply was resumed for retail gas businesses (formerly known as Community Gas), except in areas where recovery is difficult due to collapsed houses, by January 10, 2024. Although there were some disruptions to supply bases, filling stations, and other facilities for LP gas, which is widely used in the heavily damaged Okunoto area, there were no supply shortages due to alternative deliveries from other locations and the use of cylinders stored in the affected areas, including under the eaves of homes.

### **2) Water supply and sewerage**

In this earthquake, water pipes, including non-seismic resistant, as well as earthquake resistant pipes, suffered ruptures, such as joints coming loose. In addition, core facilities such as water purification plants were damaged, and up to approximately 136,440 households in 29 cities, 7 towns, and 1 village in six prefectures (Ishikawa, Niigata, Toyama, Fukui, Nagano, and Gifu) experienced suspension of water supply due to damage such as broken distribution and transmission pipelines. The restoration of water supply facilities was difficult due to the extensive damage to facilities and the difficulty of providing support in the Noto region, which had limited access and accommodation facilities. However, engineers from water utilities are dispatched to the affected sites one by one to survey the damage situation and draw up restoration plans, and recovery work is progressing. As of

May 31, 2024, water mains had been restored, except for 631 households in areas with collapsed buildings in Wajima City and Suzu City.

However, heavy rain in September 2024 caused water outages affecting up to 5,216 households in Wajima City, Suzu City, and Noto Town. Water and sewage facilities damaged by the heavy rain were also quickly restored, and by the end of 2024, the water supply was restored in all areas except those with collapsed buildings.

Sewerage officials from local governments and private business operators (such as the Japan Sewer Collection System Management Association) across Japan assisted with the restoration of sewerage pipelines from January 5. From January 7, the Japan Sewage Works Agency provided emergency inspections to sewage treatment plants and pumping stations that had suspended operations. As of April 1, sewage treatment plants that had suspended operations in six particularly hard-hit cities and towns in the Noto region of Ishikawa Prefecture had already resumed operations. In the six cities and towns in the Noto region (Suzu City, Wajima City, Nanao City, Noto Town, Anamizu Town, and Shika Town) that were particularly hard hit, the shutdown of sewage treatment plants and other facilities was resolved by March 5, 2024, and the flow function of sewer mains was secured by April 25, 2024, except in areas with collapsed buildings in Suzu City.

Currently, support for early restoration continues with integrated efforts for both water supply and sewerage systems, alongside restoration work in coordination with community drainage facilities and septic tanks.

### **3) Communication**

Electrical blackouts and fiber optic outages caused cellular phone base stations to shut down. As of January 3, 2024, a total of 839 base stations operated by four cellular phone carriers in Ishikawa and Niigata prefectures were out of service. In Ishikawa Prefecture in particular, eight cities and towns experienced service disruptions immediately after the disaster. In the six hardest-hit municipalities, communication coverage dropped to approximately 30% of pre-disaster levels at the peak of the disruption. Cell phone carriers advanced emergency restoration efforts using mobile base stations (such as vehicle-mounted units, portable satellite antennas, wire-fed drones, and shipboard stations), and had largely completed emergency restoration by January 15 and 17, 2024, except in areas that were inaccessible. Full-scale restoration proceeded through the restoration of commercial power, replacement of optical fiber, repair of base stations, and other efforts. Fixed-line communication services were also restored by February 6, 2024, except for some areas of Wajima City, Ishikawa Prefecture. In areas where communication was disrupted, efforts were made to ensure connectivity through collaboration between the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, mobile carriers, and fixed-line telecom operators, including the provision of satellite communication equipment at evacuation shelters. As of March 2025, telecommunications carriers continue to restore full services, taking into account road clearance conditions, including damage caused by the heavy rains in September 2024.

#### **4) Broadcasting**

In terms of broadcasting infrastructure, operations of terrestrial TV and radio services were suspended in some areas due to the depletion of fuel for the auxiliary power supply that had been in operation after the commercial power supply was cut off at the beginning of the disaster. To ensure access to reliable information for all affected people, measures that included coordinating with the SDF for fuel resupply to relay stations, the use of satellite broadcasting to air programs of NHK Kanazawa Broadcasting Station, and the installation of TVs and antennas at evacuation shelters, were implemented. Following the restoration of commercial power supply, broadcast disruptions were eliminated across the entire region by January 24, 2024. Since the affected areas are highly dependent on cable TV (96.4% in Noto Town, 70.1% in Suzu City, etc.), emergency restoration of the main center facilities was completed by the end of March, and full-scale restoration of transmission lines disrupted by cable breaks is ongoing.

### **(3) Efforts to recover livelihood**

#### **1) Support for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Small/Micro-Enterprises**

Many manufacturing companies and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and small/microenterprises in the Hokuriku region, concentrated in the Ishikawa Prefecture, suffered damage to their buildings and facilities. In Ishikawa Prefecture, based on interviews with chambers of commerce and associations of commerce and industry, the total amount of damage to small and medium-sized enterprises in the prefecture is estimated at approximately 320 billion yen, much of which involves local sole proprietors and small businesses. As of November 5, 2024, about 90% of industries that could affect supply chains outside the affected area had resumed or were on track to resume production, while about 40% of companies in the craft industry had not yet resumed production. In particular, traditional industries, such as Wajima-Nuri (Wajima lacquerware), significant local industries in the affected area, suffered extensive damage. The earthquake tremors and the fire on Wajima Asaichi Street destroyed many stores and workshops.

To support the reconstruction of the affected businesses, the government designated the disaster as a “Disaster of Extreme Severity” (a severe disaster not limited to a specific region) on January 11, 2024, applied special provisions for disaster-related guarantees under the “Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Credit Insurance Act” (Act No. 264 of 1950), and compiled a support package including measures for the reconstruction of livelihood on January 25, 2024. Support measures for small and medium-sized enterprises include the Subsidy for Disaster Recovery of Specified Facilities for Small and Medium Enterprises (Nariwai Reconstruction Support Project) to assist with the restoration and improvement of facilities and equipment; the Subsidy for Small Business Sustainability (Disaster Support Framework) to support small businesses in rebuilding their operations; assistance for the removal and repair of arcades and streetlights in damaged shopping areas; and financial support from institutions such as the Japan Finance Corporation. In addition, the Noto Peninsula Earthquake Reconstruction Assistance Fund was established to address the so-called double debt problem, such as the difficulty of raising new funds due to burdens from existing loans, including COVID-related loans. The Noto Industrial Reconstruction Consultation Center was also established to offer a range of

consultation services, including financial support for recovery and reconstruction, and to facilitate support such as claim purchases through the above fund. In addition, support is being provided to make additional guarantee fees zero when changing repayment conditions for interest-free, unsecured loans (private zero-zero loans) provided by private financial institutions during the COVID-19 Crisis. Furthermore, support is being provided for the revival of traditional industries by establishing a temporary Wajima lacquerware workshop and subsidies of up to 10 million yen for the cost of securing the tools and raw materials necessary for business resumption.

## **2) Support for agriculture, forestry and fisheries**

### **(Agriculture)**

In addition to the damage to farmland, farm roads, irrigation and drainage channels, reservoirs, and other agricultural facilities, the disaster also caused damage to livestock sheds, common-use facilities, and many agricultural and livestock machinery. In addition, heavy rain during the harvest season in September 2024 caused sediment and driftwood to accumulate on approximately 400 hectares of farmland, resulting in damage to 6,073 farmland sites and 11,845 agricultural facilities across 14 prefectures including Ishikawa (as of March 31, 2025). In particular, ground upheaval caused damage to the Shiroyone Senmaida Rice Terraces, recognized as a World Agricultural Heritage site and a symbol of “Noto’s Satoyama and Satoumi.” This situation exemplifies the symbolic damage to the primary industry, a major sector in the affected area.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) provided support not only for the damage caused by the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, but also for the heavy rain in September 2024, including subsidies for the reconstruction and repair of machinery, greenhouses, livestock barns, and more. Over 11,000 MAFF-SAT personnel were dispatched to offer technical advice and guidance, supporting early recovery efforts. As a result, the area of resumed rice farming in the Okunoto region reached approximately 80% of the 2023 rice cultivation area.

Regarding four affected national land improvement facilities, the government has undertaken direct restoration. In the severely damaged agricultural coastal areas of Nanao City, Wajima City, and Anamizu Town, emergency works such as the installation of large sandbags were completed under direct government administration, and full-scale restoration work has begun. In addition, restoration work on a landslide-affected farmland area is being carried out directly by the national government, while monitoring for signs of further landslides.

### **(Forestry)**

In the forestry sector, in addition to the damage caused by the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, heavy rain in September 2024 caused damage to 300 forest lands, 93 mountain control facilities, 3,068 forest road facilities, and 145 wood processing, distribution, and special-use forest product facilities (as of March 31, 2025) in Ishikawa and eight other prefectures. The national government is implementing disaster restoration projects directly under its jurisdiction, particularly in areas of large-scale hillside collapse in privately owned forests in Wajima City and Suzu City, which suffered severe damage. In September 2024, following the disaster restoration project, a direct government forestry

project was initiated in six areas of privately owned forests in both cities. Under these circumstances, the Forestry Agency provided technical assistance to Ishikawa Prefecture and the relevant cities and towns to assess damage and formulate restoration plans, making use of aerial laser survey data acquired during the earthquake response, as the heavy rains beginning on September 20, 2024, caused further damage, such as mountainside collapses.

In addition, subsidies are being provided for the restoration and maintenance of damaged timber processing and distribution facilities, removal of destroyed facilities, and employment support through the Green Employment system, with continued support being offered toward full-scale restoration.



Forest under construction as part of a disaster restoration project (Oya-cho, Suzu City, Ishikawa Prefecture)

### (Fisheries)

In the fisheries industry, tsunamis and ground uplift caused extensive damage, including capsizing, sinking, and stranding of fishing vessels, destruction of fishing port facilities, and damage to shared-use facilities. A total of 73 fishing ports were damaged across Ishikawa Prefecture and two other prefectures, with 60 of the 69 fishing ports in Ishikawa Prefecture affected. In particular, many fishing ports, mainly in Wajima City and Suzu City on the outer coast (Ootoura region) of the Noto Peninsula, were unable to launch fishing operations due to ground uplift. Subsequently, early recovery efforts through disaster restoration projects have progressed, and in the six northern cities and towns of Ishikawa Prefecture (Suzu City, Wajima City, Nanao City, Noto Town, Anamizu Town, and Shiga Town), fishing revenue had recovered to 70% of the previous year's level (60% in terms of catch volume) as of December 2024.

For approximately 20 fishing ports that sustained particularly severe damage due to ground uplift, the Fisheries Agency determined that recovery needed to proceed in two phases: a temporary recovery phase to allow short-term resumption of operations, and a full recovery phase aimed at mid- to long-term functional improvements (such as dredging of anchorage areas and offshore extension to adjacent land). To support this, the agency established a technical study group of experts and, in July 2024, compiled and provided Ishikawa Prefecture with recovery methods and procedures tailored to each damage pattern. In response to requests from Ishikawa Prefecture and Suzu City, the national government also provided support through direct agency-led recovery projects for ports such as Noroshi Fishing Port and Ukai Fishing Port Coast.

### **3) Support for recovery of tourism, etc.**

In addition to the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, the tourism industry, one of the region's major industries, was severely damaged by the heavy rain in September 2024. The Wajima Morning Market, a representative tourist attraction in the Noto region, was severely damaged by a fire that destroyed approximately 240 buildings and 49,000 square meters. However, so-called "Traveling Wajima Morning Markets" are being held in Tokyo, Osaka, and other regions. While over 20 traditional inns and hotels in Wakura Onsen (Nanao City), one of Japan's most famous hot spring towns, suffered damage, some facilities began accepting relief workers early on, and others have resumed accepting general guests (as of March 2025).

To support the recovery of the tourism industry, in addition to measures to support small and medium enterprises and small/micro-enterprises, such as support for the reconstruction of livelihoods and ensuring the employment of employees of affected businesses through special provisions for employment adjustment subsidies, the Japan Tourism Agency (JTA) and other organizations have been working to restore tourism demand and economic activities while dispelling harmful rumors, as well as by disseminating accurate information about the Hokuriku region, including the affected areas, and conducting promotional activities to contribute to the recovery of tourism in the affected areas and attract visitors to the entire Hokuriku region. To stimulate travel demand, the "Hokuriku Ouen Wari" program (subsidy rate: 50%, up to ¥20,000/night) was implemented in Ishikawa, Toyama, Fukui, and Niigata prefectures from March to April 2024. In Ishikawa, the program was also implemented from May to July and again from September to November of the same year, and in Niigata from June to July. From March to September 2024, the Japan Travel and Tourism Association, in cooperation with private-sector businesses, carried out the "Let's Go to Hokuriku!" campaign, promoting various travel products, campaigns, and event information focused on destinations in Fukui, Ishikawa, Toyama, and Niigata Prefectures to support regional tourism recovery. In January 2025, under the Tourism Revitalization Support Project for Recovery from the Noto Peninsula Earthquake, local governments, relevant organizations, and individual businesses were invited to jointly develop recovery and reconstruction plans and create content to attract visitors after recovery. The selected proposals were announced in March. Moving forward, support will be provided through the dispatch of experts and other measures.

## **Section 6: Support for Victims**

### **(1) Evacuation life and emergency temporary housing**

In the affected areas, many affected people had to live through a prolonged evacuation immediately after the disaster, and as of 5:00 a.m. on January 2, 2024, approximately 1,300 evacuation shelters had been opened across 11 prefectures, with the number of evacuees exceeding 50,000. At 6:00 a.m. on January 3, approximately 480 shelters had been opened in Niigata, Toyama and Ishikawa Prefectures, where approximately 30,000 people evacuated. The number of evacuees has decreased as lifelines are restored and temporary housing is built in the affected areas. All shelters were closed by the end of March 2025, even in Ishikawa Prefecture, which was the worst affected area.

In the affected areas in the Noto region, many isolated settlements occurred due to the severing of

roads, and it became difficult to live due to damage to lifelines such as water, sewage, and electricity. The affected people were evacuated to hotels, inns, and other facilities in and outside Ishikawa Prefecture. As of February 16, 2024, a maximum of 5,275 people had evacuated, and as of December 24, 2024, the number of evacuees was zero at all secondary evacuation shelters (11,817 people in total). In addition, temporary shelters (Level 1.5 evacuation shelters) were set up at Ishikawa General Sports Center (Kanazawa City) and other locations, which accommodated a maximum of 367 evacuees (as of January 21, 2024), mainly the elderly and persons requiring special care. The 1.5-level evacuation shelter was closed at 6:00 p.m. on September 30, 2024 (total of 1,501 people).

In Ishikawa Prefecture, in order to identify affected people in need of support and prevent their isolation, a project was implemented from February to June 2024, in cooperation with private support groups, to make individual visits to homebound elderly people whose conditions were feared to be deteriorating due to living in the disaster area, to assess their conditions at an early stage, and to link them to the provision of necessary support. In addition, in the Affected People Monitoring and Counseling Support Program, support was provided to help disaster victims live their daily lives with peace of mind even in different environments, such as moving into emergency temporary housing, by monitoring them to prevent isolation, providing counseling on daily living, and connecting them with specialized counseling agencies as necessary.

## [Column]

### How to Overcome Disaster (Suzu City Health Promotion Center)

Toyoko Sanjo, Director of the Health Promotion Center of Suzu City, served as the head of the Suzu City Health and Medical Welfare Coordination Headquarters for disaster relief following the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake. After the disaster, she was in charge of emergency food distribution, bathing support, and overall coordination of everyday life. She also spearheaded the project to identify elderly people affected by the disaster, and since April, has concurrently served as Chair of the Disaster Victims Support Subcommittee of the Headquarters for Restoration and Recovery. Ms. Sanjo, who has played a central role in supporting disaster victims in Suzu City and has worked tirelessly, sent us a message.

The earthquake made me think again about how much I like Suzu.

I believe that local enthusiasm can be utilized in times of disaster. In Suzu City, there were fewer human casualties compared to the number of houses that collapsed. The community was well established, and local residents knew where everyone was, which made a big difference. Once again, I felt the importance of building face-to-face relationships during normal times, and I am encouraged by how the community continues to overcome challenges together.

In addition, outside support groups that assisted us in the 2023 Okunoto Earthquake arrived on the scene immediately. Since everyone knew the area and already had a grasp of the elderly who might be isolated, each group immediately went to the site and became my eyes and ears, bringing back many issues from the field. I realized that I could focus on solving them one at a time, and that by collaborating with the public and private sectors, we could respond with a sense of speed.

As long as those who have left Suzu and those who remain have their own feelings for Suzu and a strong desire to restore it, I want to be there for them.

No matter how much I was hurt by the disaster, I feel at peace when I am in Suzu. I feel safe. I would like to preserve the area just as it is, and I work every day with the hope that I can be of some assistance in this regard. I want everyone to know that although the Noto Peninsula is at the forefront of Japan's declining birthrate and aging population, there are still people living here, many who are doing their best and struggling to move forward.

Finally, I believe that stockpiling should be for one week, not three days. Please be better prepared on your own.

Toyoko Mikami, former director of the  
Suzu City Health Promotion Center



More than 160,000 houses were damaged in the affected areas, because of which securing housing for the affected people became an urgent issue. In particular, in the Okunoto region that suffered severe damage, efforts were made to secure housing amid limited availability of flat land suitable for constructing emergency temporary housing, few accommodation bases for construction workers, and time-consuming restoration of lifelines such as water supply.

To conduct damage assessment surveys and issue disaster victim certificates, which are prerequisites for reconstructing houses, the Cabinet Office, on January 13, 2024, presented points to be noted regarding the application for disaster victim certificates and the implementation of damage assessment surveys (e.g., simplified surveys for external appearance, assessment using photographs, etc., and faster assessment by collectively assessing affected buildings that are destroyed, using aerial photographs, etc.), and advised the relevant municipalities in Niigata, Toyama and Ishikawa

Prefectures to ensure that damage assessment surveys and issuance of disaster victim certificates are carried out promptly and appropriately after that<sup>4</sup>. In addition, helpdesks have been set up even at Level 1.5 evacuation shelters to facilitate the issuance of disaster victim certificates, and online application is being promoted by various local governments, allowing the applicants to apply for the issuance of disaster victim certificates using the My Number Card via Mynportal and other such means<sup>5</sup>.

In addition to emergency temporary housing (requiring construction), there are other types of emergency housing such as rental-type emergency housing and provision of public housing, etc. Ishikawa Prefecture has coordinated with local governments in and outside the prefecture and with the national government to provide emergency temporary housing in stages, taking into account local conditions and the time required for provision. Construction of emergency temporary housing (construction-type) began on January 12, 2024 in Wajima City and Suzu City and on January 15 in Noto Town and Anamizu Town. On December 23, 2024, all of the 6,882 emergency temporary housing units (requiring construction) were completed. In this disaster, portable homes, mobile homes, and other mobile vehicles are being actively utilized. In addition to promoting the construction of conventional prefabricated housing, Ishikawa Prefecture also promoted the construction of temporary wooden housing that can be used permanently as public housing by municipalities after the rescue period is over, and actively constructed row-house-style wooden temporary housing (community development type) that takes into consideration the woodland and coastal landscapes, as well as detached wooden temporary housing (hometown return type) for people who had left their local villages to return to their hometowns.

Ishikawa Prefecture has been providing rental emergency housing (vacant private homes used for temporary shelter) using private rental homes, with 3,073 units occupied as of March 31, 2025 (3,792 units at the peak, as of August 1, 2024). Rental emergency housing was also provided in Niigata, Toyama, and Fukui prefectures, which are neighboring prefectures of Ishikawa Prefecture.

As of December 16, 2024, MLIT had secured approximately 9,400 ready-to-occupy public housing units across all prefectures, with approximately 800 units already occupied. In addition, 1,100 units of UR Rental Housing had been secured across the country, with “lifestyle support advisers” assigned to provide various consultations to ensure elderly people can live safely and comfortably (maximum 1,110 units, as of December 16). In addition, 300 units of UR Rental Housing had been secured across the country, with “lifestyle support advisers” assigned to provide various consultations to ensure elderly people can live safely and comfortably. According to the information by the Ministry of Finance (MOF),

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<sup>4</sup> Cabinet Office website, “Points to be Noted for the Prompt Issuance of Disaster Victim Certificates Related to the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake” (Announced on January 13, 2024)

(Reference: [https://www.bousai.go.jp/updates/r60101notojishin/pdf/tsuuchi\\_r60113\\_seirei.pdf](https://www.bousai.go.jp/updates/r60101notojishin/pdf/tsuuchi_r60113_seirei.pdf))

<sup>5</sup> Digital Agency website: “[The 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake] Online Application for Disaster Victim Certificates”

(Reference: <https://www.digital.go.jp/2024-noto-peninsula-earthquake>)



the number of ready-to-occupy National Public Officers' housing units provided in four prefectures of the Hokuriku region, as of November 5, 2024, was - 107 units in Niigata Prefecture, 188 units in Toyama Prefecture, 139 units in Ishikawa Prefecture, and 101 units in Fukui Prefecture. In response to a request from Ishikawa Prefecture, the MOF had allowed the use of 104 National Public Officers' housing units in Ishikawa Prefecture.

In addition, heavy rain in September 2024 caused above-floor flooding in five temporary housing complexes (199 units) in Wajima and one complex (19 units) in Suzu, and restoration work was carried out in these six complexes, with all work completed on December 26, 2024. Furthermore, as for the construction of new emergency temporary housing units due to the heavy rain, all 286 required units were completed on March 28, 2025 (Fig. 6-1).

**Fig. 6-1** List of emergency housing requiring construction by type

	Number of units constructed (Earthquake)	Number of units constructed (Heavy rain)
Prefabricated houses	4,636	—
Wooden structures (Community development-type)	1,546	286
Wooden structures (Return to hometown type)	33	—
Trailer houses, moving houses, etc.	667	—
Total	6,882	286



Temporary housing complex made of wood



Prefabricated emergency temporary housing



Trailer house emergency temporary housing



Moving house emergency temporary housing

Source: Cabinet Office data

[Column]

**Guidebook for Delivering Life Support Information to Affected People**

In the past, in areas affected by disasters such as earthquakes and torrential rains, even though the national and local governments made efforts to support the affected people, each issued information separately, making it difficult for necessary information to reach those in need. Therefore, the Administrative Evaluation Bureau of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) has prepared a guidebook that compiles information on livelihood support for affected people in one volume, and is distributing it to disaster victims.

The guidebook includes information on support provided by the national and local governments for issues that arise after a disaster, such as the issuance of disaster victim certificates, the Emergency Repair System for housing, and the lending of livelihood welfare funds, as well as contact information for inquiries. In the case of the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, the information was published on the Ishikawa Administrative Evaluation Office's website on January 10, immediately after the disaster, and distributed in paper form to shelters, local governments, post offices, and the Council of Social Welfare. By the end of March 2025, there were approximately 84,000 downloads and 21,000 copies distributed.

The efforts of the guidebook are described in the report of the Working Group on Disaster Response Based on the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, which reviewed the response to the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake and organized issues and lessons learned.

- The guidebook, which comprehensively summarizes the support programs of all ministries and agencies, is useful for the affected people, and the paper version is easy to use in the affected areas
- In order to provide various types of support information to affected people more promptly and accurately in the future, the national and local governments should cooperate during normal times and standardize in advance the contents of guidebooks on support systems for disaster victims. It was also suggested that the guidebook be positioned as the basis for a common national and local information dissemination tool for affected people and that mutual use of the guidebook should be considered.

Based on the report, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications will strengthen cooperation with local governments during normal times and promote the use of the guidebook as a common information dissemination tool for both national and local governments, for example, by having local governments utilize the guidebook.

**令和6年能登半島地震による被災者の皆様への生活支援窓口案内（ガイドブック）**

令和6年能登半島地震により被災された皆様には、心よりお見舞い申し上げます。本ガイドブックは、被災者の皆様への生活支援に関する情報を提供しております。

**【本ガイドブックについて】**  
ガイドブックには、石川行政評価事務所が作成した各被災地における支援策の情報を掲載しています（情報は随時更新）。最新情報は、石川行政評価事務所ホームページに掲載しています。

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**076-264-1100** 又は **0570-090110**  
※ 受付時間：平日9時00分～18時00分（土日祝日は「月」までは0時00分～17時15分）  
※ 受付場所は留守番電話です。受付時間外は留守番電話です。
- 令和6年能登半島地震・令和6年能登半島地震で被災された方のための災害専用フリーダイヤル **0120-776-110**  
※ 受付時間：平日9時00分～17時00分  
※ 石川県内から電話される場合は076-264-1100もご利用ください。
- インターネットはこちろ
- FAX: 076-222-5233

**住まいや身の回りのこと**

**1 罹災証明書の発行**（概要は内閣府HPへ）

- 「罹災証明書」は、住宅が被害にあったことを証明するものです。被災者生活再建支援金の申請、税金の減免、各種の融資の申請などに必要となる場合があります。
  - ・ 持ち家に限らず賃貸住宅の借主も申請が可能です。また、住居がない場合でも実家に居住していれば申請が可能です。
  - ・ 原則被害にあった住宅のみが対象となりますが、住家以外の建物・構築物・自動車・家財などが災害による被害を受けた証明として罹災証明書や「被災証明書」（市町により「被災届出証明書」、「罹災届出証明書」の名称）を発行する市町もあります。
- 主な市町における「罹災証明書」の窓口は以下のとおりです（既に受付が終了している市町もありますので、ご確認ください）。

市町	窓口	電話番号	市町	窓口	電話番号
金沢市	資産税課	076-220-2151	内灘町	住民課	076-286-6701
七尾市	り災証明書課	0767-57-5518	志賀町	税務課	0767-32-9141
	ールセンター				
輪島市	税務課	0768-23-1126	宝達志水町	税務住民課	0767-29-8150
珠洲市	市民課	070-2650-2042	中能登町	税務課	0767-72-3136
羽咋市	税務課	0767-22-6901	穴水町	税務課	0768-52-3630
かほく市	税務課	076-283-1114	能登町	税務課	0768-62-8518
津幡町	税務課	076-288-2123			

Excerpts from the Guidebook for People Affected by the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake  
Source: Ishikawa Administrative Evaluation Office, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications website  
(Reference: [https://www.soumu.go.jp/main\\_content/000921862.pdf](https://www.soumu.go.jp/main_content/000921862.pdf))

## (2) Volunteer efforts

Since the disaster occurred, more than 400 specialized volunteer organizations, including NPOs focusing on disaster victim support, have entered the affected areas and are engaged in activities such as managing shelters and removing debris with heavy machinery. In addition, starting January 2, 2024, the Japan Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (JVOAD) an NPO, entered the Ishikawa Prefectural Government Office to share information and coordinate activities through information-sharing meetings with specialized NPOs, the government, and the Council of Social Welfare.

In addition, disaster volunteer centers have been set up in each city and town, led by the Council of Social Welfare of the affected areas, which accept applicants for volunteering, match volunteers with the ever-changing needs of disaster victims, and conduct activities such as cleaning up damaged houses and sorting and transporting disaster debris.

In the wake of the recent disaster, Ishikawa Prefecture and other prefectures asked general volunteers to refrain from entering the affected area directly due to traffic congestion caused by limited access roads to the affected areas and a shortage of accommodation within the areas at the beginning of the disaster. After that, Ishikawa Prefecture, in cooperation with the national government and other related organizations, accepted registrations from those who wished to volunteer on a special prefectural website, matched the needs of affected people with individual volunteers, and worked to improve the environment for volunteers and other supporters by securing lodging in the affected areas. In addition, due in part to improved road conditions and the establishment of a system to receive general volunteers in each city and town, the acceptance of volunteers has since progressed. Until March 17, 2025, approximately 180,000 volunteers had participated in volunteer activities in Ishikawa, Toyama, and Niigata Prefectures: approximately 170,000, 5,000, and 2,000 volunteers, respectively (according to a study by the National Council of Social Welfare).

## (3) Disaster waste treatment, etc.

The amount of disaster waste generated from the demolition of completely and partially destroyed

buildings, as well as from the cleanup of debris from houses damaged by the earthquake and heavy rain in September 2024, was revised by Ishikawa Prefecture in January 2025 under its Accelerated Plan for Publicly Funded Demolition. The estimated total amount of disaster waste is approximately 4.1 million tons.

The damaged houses need to be demolished as soon as possible for the recovery and reconstruction of the affected areas, and publicly funded demolition is underway, where cities and towns demolish and remove buildings on behalf of their owners based on applications. Management support has been provided by officials of the Ministry of the Environment and local governments, who have knowledge and experience in disaster waste treatment, and support for accepting applications, etc., is also provided by personnel dispatched from supporting local governments to accelerate the process of receiving applications and contract formalities for publicly funded demolition in the six particularly hard-hit cities and towns in Ishikawa Prefecture. In response to the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, which was designated as a specific emergency disaster, the government has provided subsidies under the Subsidy for Disaster Waste Treatment Project Expenses to support the demolition and removal of damaged houses at public expense, including half-destroyed houses in addition to totally destroyed ones. In addition, a special tax subsidy covering 95% of the local burden (on top of the one-half national subsidy) has been implemented. When the financial burden of disaster waste disposal becomes particularly heavy given the financial strength of an affected municipality, a fund established by the prefecture is used to reduce the local burden, thereby promoting smooth and rapid disaster waste disposal.

In the affected cities and towns in Ishikawa Prefecture, although there were temporary delays in demolition work due to the heavy rain in September 2024 and heavy snow in 2025, as of the end of March this year, 38,825 buildings had been applied for demolition out of an estimated 39,235, with 22,485 buildings already demolished. To improve and strengthen the demolition work system, the number of demolition teams was increased from 600 to 1,200, and wide-area processing of the large volume of demolition waste was expanded through rail and sea transport. Ishikawa Prefecture is promoting publicly funded demolition with the goal of completing all demolition work by October 2025, the target year of the Ishikawa Prefecture Disaster Waste Disposal Action Plan.

#### **(4) Reconstruction and community development**

In June 2024, Ishikawa Prefecture formulated the Ishikawa Prefecture Creative Recovery Plan to chart a course for creative recovery from the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake. In response to this plan, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) has been supporting the affected cities and towns in formulating reconstruction and community development plans by conducting surveys directly under its control since March 2024, including damage assessments and resident questionnaires. Since April 2024, MLIT has also been providing district-level support by assigning MLIT staff in charge of each district, technical support by UR, and cross-sectional support through collaboration with related ministries and agencies.

Since August 2024, temporary stores have been set up, and Wajima Morning Market Comeback Events have been held as preliminary reconstruction projects. In September 2024, UR established the

UR Okunoto/Wajima Base in Wajima City Hall as a base to further strengthen support in the Okunoto region.

By the end of FY2024, all cities and towns in the Okunoto region had formulated a Reconstruction Town Development Plan. As specific projects are now being developed based on these plans, support for the reconstruction of town development will continue.



Wajima Morning Market Comeback Event (morning market area)  
Source: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT)

### [Column]

#### Toward the Revival of the Wajima Morning Market

In 2024, the Noto Peninsula Earthquake caused a fire in the Honmachi shopping district's Asaichi Street. The first sale used to be held on January 4 every year, but the earthquake and fire made future prospects completely uncertain. While many of the union members had evacuated to Kanazawa, their desire to hold the Wajima Morning Market remained strong, and voices arose asking, "Can we hold the market in



Traveling Wajima Morning Market  
(photo provided by Mr. Tominaga)

Kanazawa?" With the support of many people at Kanazawa's Kaneishi Port, which had long been connected with Wajima Port, the first "Traveling Wajima Morning Market" was held on March 23, 2024, with about 30 stores participating and roughly 13,000 visitors in a single day. In Wajima City, the Traveling Wajima Morning Market has been held at a local shopping mall since July 10, 2024, and about 40 stores open there every day except Wednesdays, when the market is closed.

As of the end of December 2024, the Traveling Wajima Morning Market had been held in approximately 90 locations throughout Japan. Approximately 10 to 20 stores participate in each event. Amazingly, offers to host the market were more than double that number. Through this traveling Wajima Morning Market, we also felt a connection with people who have ties to Wajima City or who have been customers for many years. We are very grateful that some people keep coming back to visit us.

There was a strong desire not to let the Wajima Morning Market, which has a history of nearly 1,200 years, die out. The name “Traveling Wajima Morning Market” is used for the markets held in various locations, since we would like to call it simply “Wajima Morning Market” again once it can be reopened in its original location. We would like to continue the traveling morning market as long as there are offers.

It will inevitably take time to recover. However, until now, the Wajima Morning Market had only ever been held in a stall format, but through holding traveling markets in various locations this time, we have gained know-how in the traveling style as well. The Wajima Morning Market is one of the three largest morning markets in Japan, and the number of tourists has decreased from 2 million in the 1970s and 1980s to 200,000 today. We would like to turn this pinch into an opportunity to increase tourism. The Wajima City Hall has also expressed their desire to have the facility become a place of relaxation for the citizens of Wajima. In the reconstruction process, we would like to develop a new morning market, making use of the connections we have built and the know-how gained through the Traveling Wajima Morning Markets.

The Noto Peninsula is geographically unique and has experienced a once-in-a-thousand-years disaster amid a continuing decline in population and ongoing depopulation. I am very concerned about whether we will be able to get back to normal in the future. We will do our best to make this disaster a positive example for future recovery efforts, and we hope that everyone will continue to support us.

The members of the Wajima Morning Market Cooperative are aging, but we would like to restore the morning market to its original location as soon as possible and keep it going for the next 20 or 30 years. That is why I would like to invite as many people as possible to visit Wajima and the Noto Peninsula. We look forward to seeing you there.

Nagatake Tomimizu, Head of the  
Wajima City Morning Market Association



Since the disaster, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) has conducted on-site surveys by TEC-FORCE and provided information on support systems and case studies for liquefaction countermeasures through meetings held by the national government, prefectural governments, and affected municipalities. In addition, in areas where significant liquefaction damage occurred due to lateral movement of the ground surface caused by liquefaction (so-called “lateral flow,” a phenomenon in which the ground moves horizontally when liquefied during an earthquake), MLIT has supported affected municipalities by conducting direct surveys and providing assistance for developing measures to prevent recurrence of liquefaction disasters.

In addition, to strengthen support measures, the subsidy rate for the Residential Land Liquefaction Prevention Project, which supports integrated liquefaction countermeasures for public facilities and adjacent residential land implemented by local governments, was raised from one-fourth to one-half, supporting the efforts of affected municipalities.

As of March 2025, cities and towns with significant liquefaction damage have prepared reconstruction plans that include liquefaction countermeasures, and in some areas, demonstration experiments are already underway to prevent the recurrence of liquefaction disasters. The affected

municipalities are scheduled to start their projects sequentially while seeking consensus among local residents, and we will continue to provide support for their implementation.

**[Column]**

**A Case Study of Efforts Toward Reconstruction and Community Development in Machinomachi, Wajima City**

The 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake crippled the entire Machinomachi area of Wajima. Although there was no electricity or running water in any home and no prospect of when life would return to normal, Machinomachi was already a region with a declining birthrate and aging population. Concerned that doing nothing would be disastrous for the community, local young volunteers launched the Machino Reconstruction Project Executive Committee in February 2024.



“Meat Fest” in Machinomachi, Wajima City (photo provided by Mr. Yamashita)

To lift the gloomy atmosphere and “create a day when everyone can laugh together, even if only for one day,” they began organizing monthly events as entertainment for local residents, including the “Sakura Fest” cherry blossom viewing event in April, the “Meat Fest” featuring Noto beef in May, and an “Outdoor Movie Theater” in June, held as a trial event based on residents’ wishes for such a facility in Machinomachi.

However, just as Machinomachi was beginning to make progress in reconstruction, a torrential rainstorm hit Okunoto. I felt the hearts of the community members falter again. They started accepting volunteers on their own because they wanted to “first get back to the situation before the heavy rain, before the snow.” Thanks to the support of many people, Machinomachi was able to gradually move toward recovery.

In January 2025, they began a transportation assistance program subsidized by Wajima City. It is also difficult to use social media in aging communities. Believing that radio is the most efficient way to communicate information, they conducted a one-day “Town Radio” experimental broadcast through a temporary disaster broadcasting station. We also streamed the event on the Internet and received messages of support from people far away, which provided a good opportunity to draw public attention to Machinomachi.

In April 2025, a town development council was established. We are also considering introducing something like a digital resident card to increase the number of Machinomachi fans. In addition, we would like to open a temporary disaster broadcasting station, transition into a town development company, establish a microbrewery, build log houses, and take the necessary steps to achieve the project theme of “Exciting and Fun Machinomachi.”

I hope you don't forget about Noto.

As time passes since the disaster, some may think that Noto has recovered, but the reality is still harsh.

Each stage of recovery has its own needs, so we ask that you continue to provide whatever support you can.

We also hope that you will come visit Noto, not only to provide support, but also to see the area for yourself, as temporary shopping streets and other facilities will soon be opening.

Yusuke Yamashita, Chairman,  
Machino Reconstruction Project Executive Committee



### [Column]

#### **A Case Study of Efforts Toward Reconstruction and Community Development in Monzenmachi, Wajima City**

As the manager of the Wajima City Kushibinosho Zen-no-Sato Exchange Center, which conveys the history of Sojiji Temple's ancestral temple, I have been promoting community development with the entire community since before the disaster, based in the Sojiji Street shopping district in Monzenmachi, Wajima City. COVID-19 had settled down, and just as we were considering new developments for the future, the Noto Peninsula Earthquake occurred in 2024. At the time, I thought, "Everything I had prepared for was lost."

Fortunately, everyone in the shopping arcade was safe, although there were some injuries. Many wanted to keep their stores going as well. After the disaster, it was decided that the support groups would base their operations at the Exchange Center, and I became the coordinator connecting the support groups with the community. As a result of progress in matching support and needs, temporary stores had a pre-opening in October 2024. Since some stores had already reopened in their own homes, we intentionally opened temporary stores in three separate locations to create a system that would encourage people to visit the entire town.

In addition, the Sojiji Street Cooperative Association has held the "Monzen Marche" community event on the second Saturday of every month since 2021 in an effort to liven up the town. After the earthquake, there were many requests to resume the event, and in June 2024, it was held again at the Zen-no-Sato Exchange Center, with vendors bringing their products to sell in a stall format. Later, as part of the support, a concert and beer garden were held in conjunction with the "Monzen Marche." The purpose of the "Monzen Marche" was to carry it out in a simple, sustainable way, which suited the shopping district's approach.

One year had passed since the earthquake, the number of volunteers had decreased, and the town seemed deserted. It will be too late to figure out what to do after it reaches zero. Believing that it was necessary to start thinking about what was needed for reconstruction now, we began holding hearings and workshops for local residents in the fall of 2024. We are still conducting a needs assessment, but we believe that 2025 will be the year to decide how we will carry out community development in the future. The first of these is the launch of the Laundry Cafe. Many business operators involved in the recovery efforts said that laundry was difficult due to the lack of

laundromats and dry cleaners, and some said that since they have been living in temporary housing since the disaster, it has become difficult to get together and opportunities for socializing have decreased. Therefore, we are planning to launch a Laundry Cafe as a means of fulfilling these wishes in order to help them regain their ability to live. Since it will take time to recover, we hope to set yearly goals to keep our motivation up and to enjoy a sense of accomplishment as we move forward with recovery efforts.

I want to do my best as I believe that the reconstruction of our shopping district will become a beacon of hope for local residents.

At any rate, please visit. I want people to come, see Noto as it is today, and experience it with their own eyes and senses. It's different from what you see on social media or TV, and we want to share the scenery and delicious food of Noto together. We want to have a great time with visitors. By coming, eating, and enjoying yourselves, you're already supporting us.

In recent years, various disasters have occurred, but please do not think of them as someone else's problem. It can happen anywhere. The earthquake 18 years ago made me think it probably wouldn't happen again. At the time, I also thought that the government would take care of everything. However, this earthquake made me realize that I had to take action myself. I want you to come to Noto, see and feel the current situation, and imagine that your own town, or even you, could face the same thing someday. I hope that you will connect this experience to your own disaster prevention.

I also hope you will value the "community" around you. In school, there are clubs where people gather to do what they love, make friends, and form groups. Even as adults, that's still a community. It's the same in rural areas. People greet each other when they meet, gather in the fields, and chat together. It may look a little different, but the same kind of community exists in cities, too. Young people are now connecting on social media. But here in Monzen, it hasn't really taken hold. That's why we're connected through face-to-face relationships. We build connections by meeting face to face. This is important. Social media is only a tool. Try to first build relationships where you can actually see each other's faces. That will give you the strength needed when the time comes.

Anri Miyashita, Director of Administration,  
Zen-no-Sato Exchange Center, Wajima City



### [Column]

#### **Comparison of the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake with the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake in Key Indicators**

As described in the "Self-inspection Report on the Emergency Response to the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake" (Verification Team for the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake), the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake was more difficult to respond to than the Kumamoto Earthquake (which occurred on April 14, 2016), a disaster of relatively similar scale, due to access difficulties and other factors. To visualize these challenges, a time-series comparison was conducted using several representative indicators.

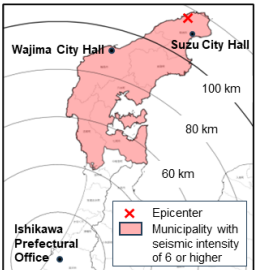
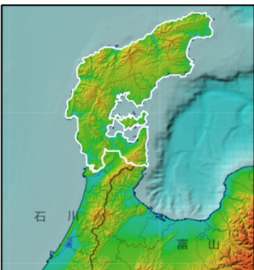
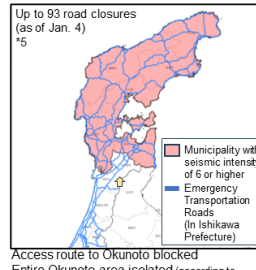
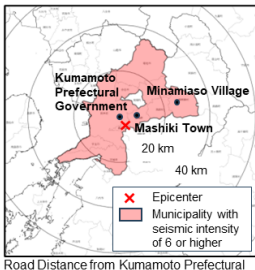
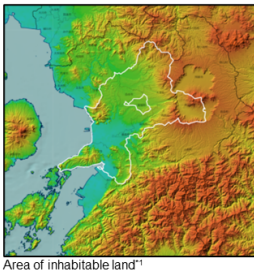
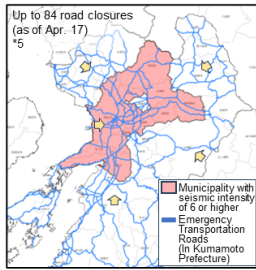
- Geographic and social factors that make access difficult

The Noto Peninsula, where the earthquake struck, is a mountainous peninsula surrounded on three sides by the sea, with significant geographical constraints. These geographical and social characteristics, such as the isolation of access routes to the Okunoto region and a high proportion of elderly residents, made conditions extremely difficult for both affected people and local

governments, not only in the immediate evacuation and sheltering phases after the disaster but also during later reconstruction and recovery efforts.

### Comparison of Geographical Characteristics of the Affected Areas of the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake and the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake

- The affected area was a mountainous peninsula surrounded on three sides by the sea and had geographical and social characteristics such as difficult accessibility and a large elderly population.

	Location and Access	Topography	Redundancy	Other
Areas affected by the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake	 <p>Road Distance from Ishikawa Prefectural Office                      Suzu City Hall: approx. 135 km                      Wajima City Hall: approx. 110 km</p>	 <p>Area of inhabitable land<sup>1</sup>                      Suzu City: approx. 25%                      Seismic intensity 6 or higher area: approx. 28%</p>	 <p>Up to 93 road closures (as of Jan. 4)<sup>5</sup></p> <p>Access route to Okunoto blocked                      Entire Okunoto area isolated (according to prefectural data)</p> <p>Number of intersections between emergency transportation roads and municipal boundaries entering areas with seismic intensity 6 or higher: 10 locations<sup>2</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Percentage of elderly population<sup>1</sup>                              Suzu City: approx. 52%                              Wajima City: approx. 46%                              Municipality with seismic intensity of 6 or higher: approx. 44%                              Reference - National average: 29%</li> <li>- Earthquake resistance rate<sup>4</sup>                              Ishikawa Prefecture: 76%                              Suzu City: 51%                              Wajima City: 42%                              Reference - National average: 87%</li> <li>- Percentage of villages with the possibility of being isolated (Ishikawa Prefecture)<sup>3</sup>                              Agricultural settlements: approx. 43% (179/421)                              Reference - Nationwide: approx. 29% (17,212/58,734)                              Fishing settlements: approx. 27% (47/174)                              Reference - Nationwide: approx. 31% (1,933/6,275)</li> </ul>
Areas affected by the Kumamoto Earthquake	 <p>Road Distance from Kumamoto Prefectural Office                      Mashiki Town Hall: approx. 10 km                      Minamiaso Village Hall: approx. 35 km</p>	 <p>Area of inhabitable land<sup>1</sup>                      Mashiki Town: approx. 69%                      Seismic intensity 6 or higher area: approx. 63%</p>	 <p>Up to 84 road closures (as of Apr. 17)<sup>5</sup></p> <p>Number of intersections between emergency transportation roads and municipal boundaries entering areas with seismic intensity 6 or higher: 23 locations<sup>2</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Percentage of elderly population<sup>1</sup>                              Mashiki Town: approx. 30%                              Minamiaso Village: approx. 43%                              Municipality with seismic intensity of 6 or higher: approx. 28%</li> <li>- Earthquake resistance rate<sup>4</sup>                              Kumamoto Prefecture: 79%                              Mashiki Town: 85%                              Minamiaso Village: 50%</li> <li>- Percentage of villages with the possibility of being isolated (Kumamoto Prefecture)<sup>3</sup>                              Agricultural settlements: approx. 20% (417/2,096)                              Fishing communities: approx. 26% (72/281)</li> </ul>

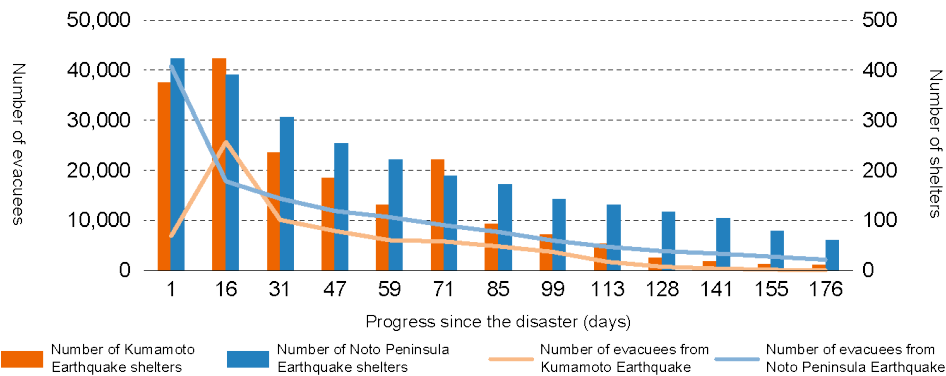
\*1 Source: "Statistics of Municipalities 2023" (Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications) \*2 Source: Cabinet Office (CAO) based on information on emergency transportation roads from the "National Land Information Download Site" \*3 Source: Damage reports of each prefecture and materials from meetings of prefectural disaster headquarters \*4 Source: Website of each local government \*5 Source: "Follow-up Survey on the Possibility of Isolated Settlements in Scattered Settlements in Mountainous Areas (October 2014, Director General for Disaster Management, Cabinet Office)

Source: Cabinet Office data

#### - Number of shelters and evacuees

Comparing the number of shelters and evacuees in the Noto Peninsula and Kumamoto earthquakes, the number decreased significantly about one month after the Kumamoto Earthquake, while in the Noto Peninsula Earthquake, although it also showed a gradual decline, the decrease was slower. In addition to the primary evacuation, the Noto Peninsula Earthquake also involved wide-area evacuations beyond municipal boundaries, 1.5-level evacuations for temporary stays before moving to secondary shelters, and secondary evacuations to hotels and inns.

Kumamoto Earthquake and Noto Peninsula Earthquake Number of shelters and evacuees



Source: Cabinet Office data

- Construction status of emergency temporary housing

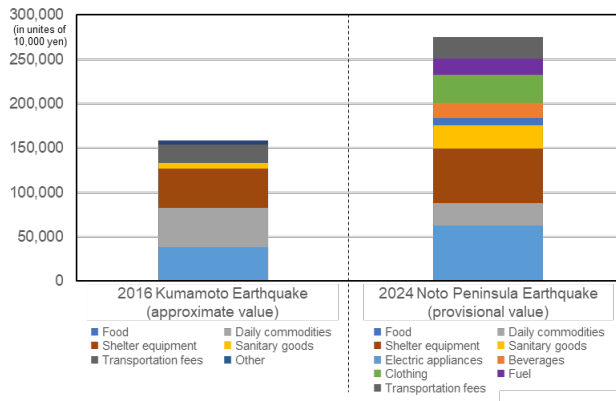
In the Noto Peninsula Earthquake, 4,245 units were completed within about five months (January 12 – May 25, 2024), while in the Kumamoto Earthquake, 4,303 units were completed within about seven months (April 29 – November 14, 2016). Despite the challenges of limited flat land and site acquisition, Ishikawa Prefecture promoted the construction of emergency temporary housing at a faster pace than in the Kumamoto Earthquake, drawing on knowledge and experience gained from that disaster. In the Noto Peninsula Earthquake, 6,882 units (159 housing complexes) of construction-type temporary housing were eventually built in 10 cities and towns in Ishikawa Prefecture. In addition, during the Okunoto torrential rain, a flood event in an area that still faced residual disaster risk, some emergency temporary housing was damaged. However, alongside conventional prefabricated units, Ishikawa Prefecture also built tenement-style wooden emergency temporary housing that could later serve as permanent residences, designed to harmonize with the local landscape, as well as hometown return type wooden emergency temporary housing intended to support displaced residents returning home. Compared to the Kumamoto Earthquake, a wider variety of architectural styles was realized.

- Status of implementation of push-type support

In the Noto Peninsula Earthquake, push-type support was provided for about three times longer (82 days) than in the Kumamoto Earthquake, and the total amount of support was nearly double. This can be seen as the result of the government's proactive response based on lessons learned from the Kumamoto Earthquake. However, as indicated by the number of days and total amount of assistance, it is clear that the long duration of the evacuation period created a pronounced need for effective and sustained delivery of relief supplies. In terms of relief supplies, the Noto Peninsula Earthquake occurred during a cold period (January), so for the first time, fuel was included in push-type support, along with enhanced provision of clothing and other items. Procurement and distribution were carried out based on the detailed needs of the affected areas. On the other hand, since it was not possible to secure enough relief supplies to distribute to everyone at once to meet the wide range of needs, there were cases where local officials in the affected municipalities could not distribute goods fairly. This highlighted some of the challenges in providing support for evacuees.

## Comparison of Push-Type Support for the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake and the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake

### - Comparison of the amount of goods distributed



### - Comparison of number of days of support and total expenditure

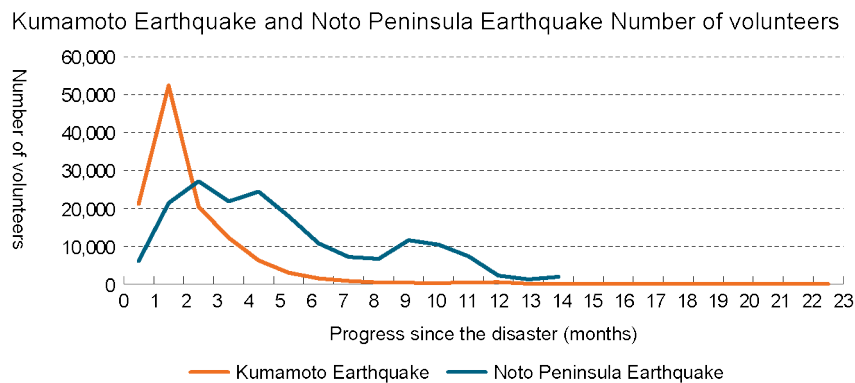
Disaster Name	Number of days of push-type support	Amount of push-type support disbursements (in millions of yen)
2016 Kumamoto Earthquake	28	1,590 (estimate)
2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake	82	2,745 (provisional value)

- \*1 Although beverages are not included in the breakdown of the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake, approximately 80,000 bottles of drinking water were separately provided free of charge
- \*2 Although clothing is not included in the breakdown of the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake, approximately 200,000 pieces of clothing were separately provided free of charge
- \*3 Blue plastic tarps are included under daily necessities for the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake. In the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, blue tarps are included as evacuation shelter equipment
- \*4 Electrical appliances in the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake are classified as part of "Other"
- \*5 Although some food, drinking water, daily necessities, clothing, and other items were procured through push-type assistance in the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, an estimated 270 million yen worth of goods were ultimately provided free of charge based on company offers

Source: Cabinet Office data

### - Volunteer participation

In the 14 months following the earthquakes, the total number of volunteers was about 180,000 for the Noto Peninsula Earthquake and about 120,000 for the Kumamoto Earthquake. Although the total for the Noto Peninsula Earthquake was higher, the number of volunteers during the first month was less than half that of the Kumamoto Earthquake. One of the factors behind this is thought to be that, at the beginning of the disaster, the acceptance of volunteers was restricted due to road conditions and other factors. After the Kumamoto Earthquake, the number of volunteers decreased significantly from the third month onward. In contrast, in the Noto Peninsula Earthquake, the number of volunteers began to increase about one and a half months after the disaster, peaked around the third month, and then remained relatively steady, with another increase after the torrential rain disaster in September.



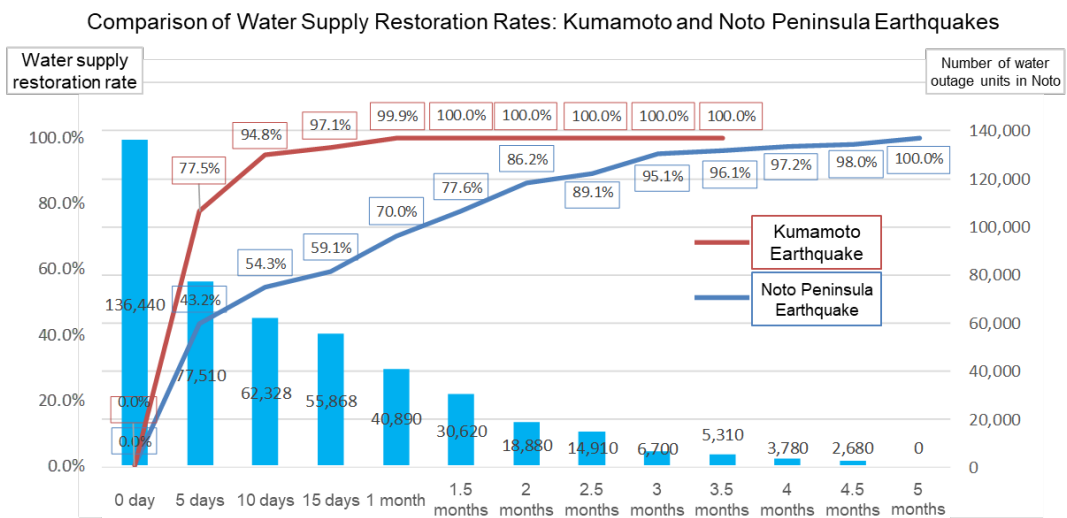
Source: Cabinet Office data

- Progress of publicly funded demolition

Although it is difficult to directly compare the progress of publicly funded demolition of damaged houses between the Noto Peninsula and Kumamoto earthquakes due to differences in data collection methods, one year after the disaster the progress rate was about 65% (April 2017) for the Kumamoto Earthquake and about 45% (January 2025) for the Noto Peninsula Earthquake. This is thought to be because the Noto region, the largest peninsula on the Sea of Japan coast, faced many challenges in promoting disaster waste disposal, such as limited access routes, a high aging rate in depopulated areas, and a high proportion of completely destroyed buildings. Ishikawa Prefecture has formulated a demolition plan with a target of completing publicly funded demolition within approximately one year and nine months after the disaster (in principle, by the end of October 2025), roughly the same timeline as the Kumamoto Earthquake. Although demolition work was temporarily halted due to heavy rain that began on September 20, 2024, as of the end of March 2025, demolition is progressing at a pace exceeding the plan.

- Restoration of water supply

In the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, compared to the Kumamoto Earthquake, the recovery of water supply facilities took longer due to the combination of damage to the limited transportation routes unique to the peninsula and restrictions on working hours caused by bad weather.



The water supply recovery rate is calculated by dividing the number of units for which water mains have been restored by the maximum number of units with water outages.

Source: Prepared by the Cabinet Office (CAO) based on information provided by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT)